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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Lack of sight not stopping students

Visually impaired learners strut their stuff at the annual Alberta Braille Challenge PAGE 6

Heroin found at the city airport

Seizure at Calgary International is "probably the largest we've seen," according to one official PAGE 5

Venting their anger

Debate follows report that a male paramedic was barred from entering a women's-only campus in Saudi Arabia to assist a student who later died PAGE 14

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Sochi Games lift off

Canada's Maxence Parrot flies through the air during a training run at the Olympics in Russia. Opening ceremonies are Friday. Stay on top of the action at metronews.ca. COVERAGE, PAGES 10, 16 & 39

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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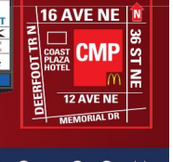

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Artists may sue over ads that resemble their work

Get off of my Cloud.
Sculpture mimicked in Disney, IBM ads

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary-based artists Caitlind Brown and Wayne Garrett are considering their legal options after two major corporations came out with ads using imagery similar to one of their most famous works.

Cloud, an interactive sculpture made from thousands of light bulbs, captivated Calgarians during the city's inaugural Nuit Blanche festival in 2012 and later audiences around the world.

The piece has been displayed in Moscow, Prague and Eindhoven in the Netherlands, and Brown said "specific imagery" of the sculpture taken during Nuit Blanche has appeared in print or online publications in more than 35 countries.

Recently, however, Brown said friends in the local arts community brought to her attention how much one of the most iconic images of Cloud, taken in Calgary by photographer Doug Wong, looked like new ad campaigns from Disney and IBM.

"The particular context for these advertisements was very similar," she said. "I mean, you can't help but notice some similarities."

One ad is for the Disney Institute, an arm of The Walt Disney Company that offers business training and seminars. The other is a New Year's greeting video that IBM puts out annually.

Like the iconic Cloud picture, both ads feature images of people looking upward at a collection of light bulbs and reaching for dangling pull-cords.

A spokesperson for IBM said the company has used light bulbs as a "main art element" for its Smarter Cities campaign since 2008 and the light bulbs have been featured in IBM marketing since the 1940s.

The Disney Institute did not reply to a request for comment.

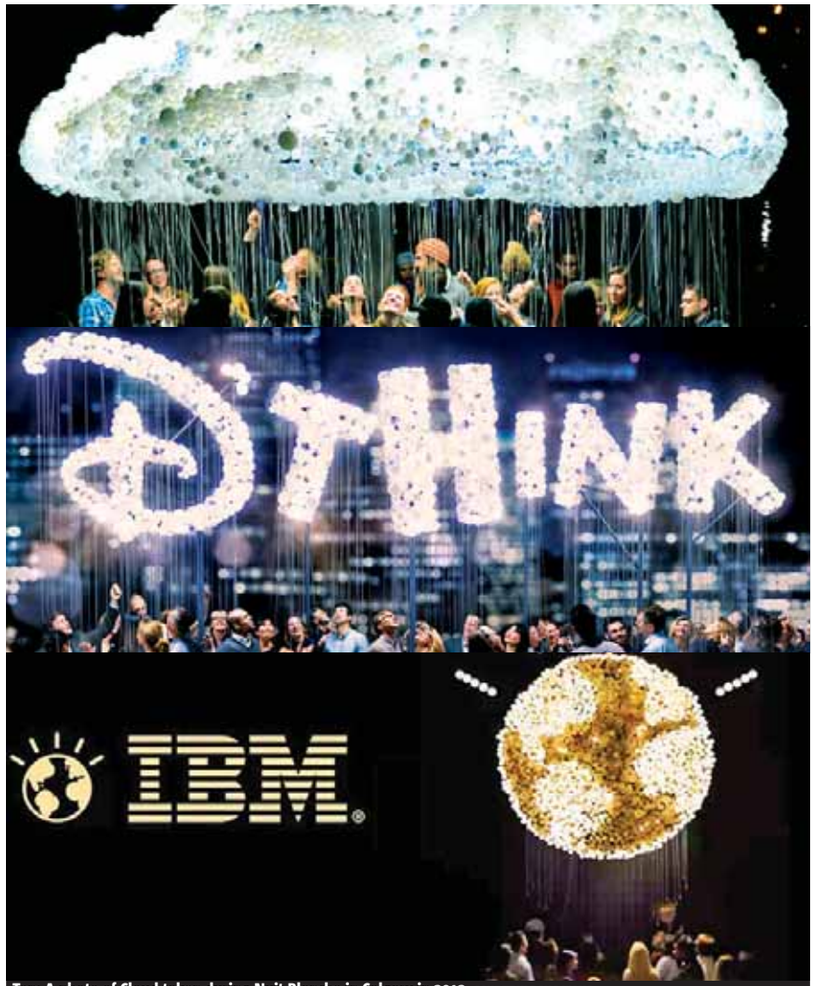
Brown said she and Garrett don't know exactly how to handle the situation and while they "hate the idea of lawsuits" they feel a certain responsibility to the artistic community to at least start a discussion over intellectual property rights.

"We feel as if we owe to the artists we know who have also had work stolen," she said. "We haven't contacted any lawyers, but we have had lawyers and law students contact us."

Greg Hagen, a professor at the University of Calgary who teaches intellectual property law, said "works of artistic craftsmanship" can qualify for copyright protection in Canada and, by extension, in other countries through treaties.

But he added, there are many legal hurdles when it comes to demonstrating not just the existence of copyright, but also ownership of it and then proving infringement of it.

"Practically, it could cost you a lot of money," he said.



Top: A photo of Cloud taken during Nuit Blanche in Calgary in 2012. COURTESY DOUG WONG
Middle: A promotional image being used by the Disney Institute. SCREENSHOT
Bottom: Images that appear as part of a New Year's video greeting put out by IBM. SCREENSHOTS (COMPOSITE IMAGE)

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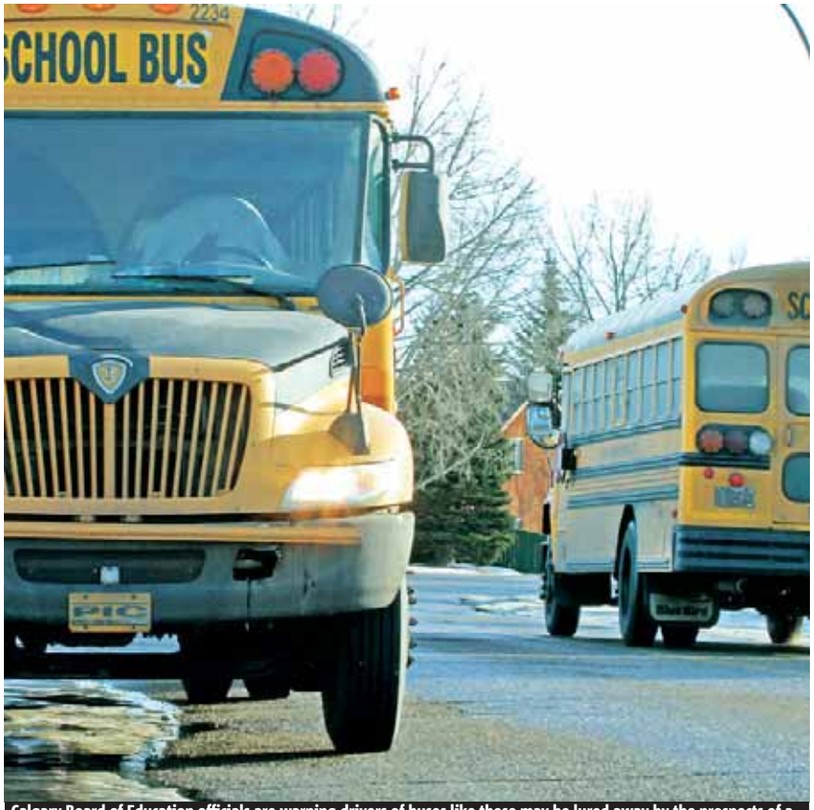

Calgary Board of Education officials are warning drivers of buses like these may be lured away by the prospects of a job with Calgary Transit. METRO FILE

CBE fears bus drivers will jump to city transit service

'Major concern.' Possibly declining pool of drivers comes alongside surge in student enrolment at CBE and Catholic schools

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Eight Calgary school-bus drivers have jumped to the city-run transit service in recent weeks and parents are being warned of service delays as the city remains locked in a deep-freeze.

In a report, the Calgary Board of Education says Calgary Transit has indicated plans to hire on 300 more drivers this year.

"This will have a direct impact on our carriers," public school trustees were told.

Transit spokesperson Ron Collins, however, pegged the number of new drivers sought at 220: 140 part-time shuttle drivers and 80 regular-service operators.

The prospect of a declining pool of qualified drivers to transport more than 40,000 Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District students also comes as both boards struggle under the weight of surging student enrolment.

CBE Supt. for facilities and environmental services Frank Coppinger told trustees during a meeting Tuesday night the lack of drivers is a "major concern."

WITH FILES FROM BRYAN WEISMILLER

More students busing

The percentage of public school students riding the bus has actually dipped slightly in recent years despite surging student numbers. In 2008-09, nearly 36 per cent of students rode the bus, but the opening of new schools since led that number to drop to roughly 33 per cent in 2012-13.

- The CBE estimates three per cent more students will require bus transportation this fall.
- The CCSD also expects three to four per cent growth in students riding the bus next year.

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‘Revenge and jealousy.’ Man accused of littering streets with X-rated flyers

Police allege a jilted lover repeatedly littered a southeast neighbourhood with pornographic flyers.

On Thursday, Calgary cops announced they’d laid charges against Anthony Victor Hilton, 61, in a stalking case dating back to the summer of 2011. It’s alleged the accused drove through residential streets tossing lewd material out his car window.

Anthony Hilton BADOO.COM

District 4 Staff Sgt. Geoff Gawlinski said the material included the victim’s name, contact information and suggestions she was “sexually promiscuous.”

“His motive was revenge and jealousy,” Gawlinski told reporters. He said the victim and accused met online and had a “brief” relationship.

In June 2013, a father told police his 40-year-old daughter was targeted in the alleged revenge plot. Southview residents also complained of finding crude material on their property and near a school.

“The victims ... were quite conscious of this happening regularly,” Gawlinski said. “They were going to the school and trying to assist with the cleanup.”

Hilton faces two charges of criminal harassment-stalking and one count of threat-related crime.

A woman reached by phone identified herself as Hilton’s wife, but declined to elaborate on what was “going on behind the scenes.” The woman told Metro her husband is in hospital and he needs to explain.

“It’s up to him — not to me,” she said Thursday.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

6.7 kilograms of heroin found at Calgary airport

CBSA director Candace Lyle shows off heroin and modified luggage seized by customs officers. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Big bust. 44-year-old man faces drug charges as police notice an ‘increased number of seizures’ of the drug

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Authorities say roughly 6.7 kilograms of heroin was recently found in a pair of false-bottom suitcases at the Calgary International Airport.

On Thursday, Mounties and border authorities unveiled the big bust to reporters.

“These seizures help to prevent illegal drug smuggling that endangers the safety of Canadians,” said RCMP Insp. Gordon Sereda, reading a prepared statement.

The Canada Border Services Agency seized 20 kilograms of heroin at the Calgary International Airport in 2013.

“That’s probably the largest we’ve seen,” said Candace Lyle, the agency’s director of operations.

Sereda also said there’s been an “increased number of seizures” in recent times, although specific figures were not available.

Those remarks echo comments made by city police in a Metro report this week.

The Calgary Police Service seized heroin 46 times last year, up from 28 in 2012.

In the case announced Thursday, the accused was said to be flying from London to Calgary. The suspected smack was discovered after a secondary search on Jan. 31.

It’s unclear where the heroin originated from — but investigators acknowledged there’s a well-known pipeline from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Rasid Abdulla Mussa, 44, faces two drug-related charges.

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Jump-On! Charter service looks to take off

After getting six flights to the "jumping point" last year, Jump-On!, a Calgary-based air-charter service that relies on the power of social media to fill planes that would otherwise sit idle, is hoping to expand to new markets in 2014.

"We just want to keep adding flights," CEO Roger Jewett said Thursday, shortly after the company launched a redesigned website.

Jewett came up with the idea during his previous role as a CFO with one of the air-charter companies serving the oil patch.

"Their planes are busy during the weekdays flying oil workers up to Fort McMurray and back, but they're idle on the weekends," Jewett said. "There's a number of very expensive airplanes that sit every weekend in Calgary."

The timing works out perfectly, he added, for would-be travellers looking for reasonably priced flights at peak times

From left, Sean Jewett, Matthew Gillott, Robb Johnstone and Jean Marc LaFlamme, of Jump-On! CONTRIBUTED

— provided there's enough of them.

Similar to Groupon deals, Jump-On! flights only happen if enough people sign up. Jewett said that's typically 80 per cent capacity.

The company is currently offering charters from Calgary to Revelstoke, B.C., and Phoenix, Ariz., but it has designs on at least 10 more destinations and three more points of origin.

More info is available at gojumpon.com.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Crime

Alleged gangster nabbed in sting

Alberta organized-crime investigators have arrested a suspected full-patch Hells Angels member, along with nine others, following a three-month investigation to crack down on cocaine trafficking in Edmonton.

Blake Christie, 32, was the focus of the investigation launched in October by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT).

Arrested at a north Edmonton home on Jan. 30, Christie is now facing 11 charges in connection with the sting. METRO

Wildlife

Limit predators to save bird: Experts

Conservation experts from around the world are making five main recommendations to protect one of Canada's most endangered birds from extinction.

One of the suggestions is to protect the sage grouse by potentially reducing predator numbers, while another is to establish a captive breeding centre.

The ideas come from a workshop by the Calgary Zoo that brought together biologists, ranchers and government and energy-industry representatives.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lack of sight no plight for skilled students

Speed readers.
Alberta Braille Challenge rewards visually impaired youngsters

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Ninety per cent of learning is visual.

So imagine what it's like to go through school lacking sight. A basic textbook can take hours longer to pore through, and identifying classmates requires a good sense of smell, a touch or a helping hand.

Thursday, however, visually impaired students from the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District — and even one little guy from Red Deer — got to strut their stuff at the annual Alberta Braille Challenge.

The 21 students involved were put under the pressure of the clock as they worked to decipher written sentences, charts, graphs — you name it.

The top-scoring students qualify for an international competition in Los Angeles, explained CBE visual specialist Angela Leavens.

"Learning braille is equal to learning print, but braille is more complex because we have more symbols," she said Thursday, as students settled in for a round of afternoon testing. "These students generally aren't finished learning their braille code until they're in Grade 3.... You have to practise quite a bit.

"We do the braille challenge to appreciate the work the students are doing — the extra work it takes to read and write and become literate."

Caden Johnson, a student from Red Deer, and Calgary student Olivia Ledditch work to decipher braille phrases during a competition open to all Alberta students that was held at Lord Shaughnessy School on Thursday. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

More online

For more photos of students taking part in the Alberta Braille Challenge, head to metronews.ca.

The challenge has been held for a decade and a few students have made it all the way to Hollywood for the international showdown. Even still, some veterans of the Alberta competition, like nine-time participant Kaylee Brown, find it challenging every year.

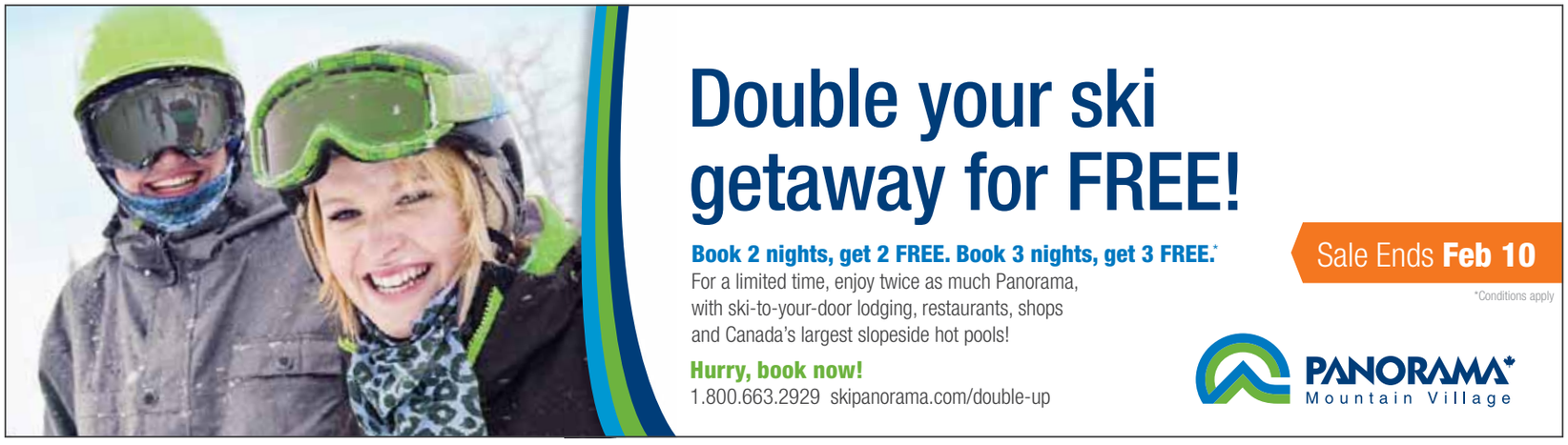
Brown fashions herself as more of a writer than reader but she still appeared eager to take part, especially with the prospect of end-of-day prizes.

"You get award certificates and a braille book of our choice," she eagerly explained.

Leavens' parents are blind, something she said motivates her and her students.

"It's like, 'I know you can do this,'" she said. "'You're going to be adults. You're probably going to want to be a mom or a dad, you're probably going to be a homeowner, have a job. You're going to want to have that autonomy to do what you want to do.'"

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais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East Village. Residents learning to get creative

Mary Jo Van Order gets lost in her writing. It's an escape from the harsh realities of life.

"I am really enjoying it," she said. "It's awesome."

She's admittedly a newcomer to the world of wordsmanship, much like many of the attendees to workshops hosted by startup group create! In the East Village.

Create! was the brainchild of Wendy Lees, who formerly taught the arts to clients of The Mustard Seed. She's ventured out on her own now and into the East Village, where many are still struggling to overcome the horrors of last June's flood.

There is also the nearby Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, where stories of personal hardship are common and many could use a friend to lean on.

She hopes to draw in people from all walks to the create! workshops, held in the upper level of the village's Golden Age Club. The aim is to develop far more than appealing canvasses and crafty sentences.

"What I try to provide is a positive, uplifting environment — a very welcoming space to be," she explained. "For example, in the sculpting class … people were sculpting a finger and they got lost in that process. For an hour and a half, whatever their worries were, were gone."

Lees said the workshops aim to fill a creative void for down-on-their-luck folks.

"People that are in compromised positions don't typically look at a schedule, make a call, attend a class," she said. "It's difficult, it's costly (and) is pretty much minimally offered." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Take part

Upcoming create! In the East Village workshops will teach attendees how to do acrylic painting as well as create mosaics and artist trading cars.

- To find out more about create! or to lend support to Wendy Lees, email wendylees@shaw.ca.

DON'T TELL THIS GUY CALGARY'S NOT ROMANTIC

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

This week, Amazon.ca released a study saying that Calgary was the 13th most romantic city in all of Canada.

Adding insult to injury, we ranked lower than everyone from Winnipeg and Lethbridge to Regina and Red Deer.

Don't get me wrong, Red Deer is a lovely city, but when the most romantic thing to do there is dinner for two at the Donut Mill, it makes me at least question the survey's results.

Other cities ranking higher than Calgary include Saskatoon, Langley and Thunder Bay.

The list was compiled by comparing Amazon.ca sales data of romance novels and relationship books (let's just assume those both mean 50 Shades of Grey); romantic comedies; and a collection of romantic music CDs from artists such as Dean Martin, Barry White, Luther Vandross and Michael Bublé on a per capita basis in cities with more than 80,000 residents.

To me, that data doesn't tell who is the most romantic, but more who is in need of more romance in their life.

It's basically telling us who is likely to own four or more cats, and if that's the case, 13th place isn't a bad place to be.

And besides, there's plenty of romance in Calgary, even if you ignore the fact that the Peace Bridge is the most phallic symbol you'll ever lay your eyes on.

Ice skating at Prince's Island Park or Olympic Plaza, dinner for two somewhere along Stephen Avenue, or maybe even the winter bobsled at WinSport or the glass floor at the Calgary Tower are all great ways to spend time with the one you love, or at the very least just someone you met on Tinder.

City of love

And besides there's plenty of romance in Calgary, even if you ignore the fact that the Peace Bridge is the most phallic symbol you'll ever lay your eyes on.

But of course, none of those things matter unless you're doing them with that special someone. But honestly, Calgary is actually a pretty easy place to meet someone.

One time, I actually French kissed a complete stranger on the CTrain.

Granted, that was because we were crammed together so closely, the only way we would fit was to allow our tongues to touch.

OK technically that didn't happen, but it could and it would be a fantastic first-date story. You just have to be open to the possibilities.

Other places to meet people in Calgary? Obviously, the Ship and Anchor patio where people just sit with you, whether you know them or not.

I always thought I'd meet the love of my life at Lloyds Roller Rink because anyone cool enough to go roller-skating on a Friday night is cool enough for me.

It's too bad that Amazon doesn't consider Calgary the romantic city we all know it be. I mean, how can a city where most people meet their future spouse in a tent full of people pretending to be cowboys not be considered romantic?

MIKE MORRISON WRITES MIKE'S BLOGGITY BLOG AND TWEETS FROM @MIKESBLOGGITY.

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Optimism

Date announced for provincial 2014-15 budget

The Alberta government will bring down its 2014-15 budget on March 6.

Finance Minister Doug Horner has said he expects a better bottom line this year due to the lower dollar. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Castor, Alta.

RCMP suspect Klaus family deaths were homicides

Mounties believe the deaths of three family members in central Alberta were homicides.

The remains of Gordon Klaus, 61, and his daughter Monica Klaus, 40, were found in December in the rubble of their burned-out farmhouse near Castor, a small town east of Red Deer.

The man's wife, 62-year-old Sandra Klaus, has not been located, but RCMP suspect she was also killed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

More online

For more local news, go to metronews.ca

Sochi Games

Province is behind athletes: Redford

Premier Alison Redford wished the province's Olympic athletes success at Sochi on Thursday. Alberta is second only to Ontario in the number of athletes it's sending to the games, and Redford said the whole province would be behind them. METRO

'Hybrid' museum

Glenbow plans to focus more on art

Calgary's Glenbow Museum, often described as a "hybrid" due to its large collections of both historical artifacts and art, will move in a "new direction" that focuses more on art, its CEO announced Thursday. METRO

Olympic dietitian on a marathon of her own

University of Calgary grad. Much food for thought as logistical challenges abound

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

When Sid the Kid and company trudge off the Sochi ice late next Thursday, they'll have Kelly Anne Erdman to thank for ensuring their growling stomachs are filled.

Late-starting hockey games — the Canadian men open against Norway at 9 p.m. local time on Feb. 13 — are just part of a seemingly endless line of challenges greeting Team Canada's performance dietitian and University of Calgary grad.

Even while chatting with Metro over the phone from Sochi, Erdman was preparing 60 lunches for arriving athletes.

"It's about 12-hour days right from the get-go.... We're crazy busy," she said.

Erdman signed a three-Games contract with the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) and first worked the 2012 London Games.

Her attention shifted to Sochi almost immediately after the closing ceremonies. Erdman made two trips to the Russian resort city on consecutive Februarys — first to research what was available on grocery-store shelves during the winter months and then to finalize a list of specialty items that would need to be shipped over.

General snack foods for Canada's medal hopefuls include raw fruits and vegetables, hummus, guacamole, bruschetta, cheese and crackers, olives, trail mix, dried fruit, steel-cut oats, rice cakes, almond milk and vegetable juice.

She also said there's a little room for a treat or two in the athletes' village, providing they're low in sugar. A particularly popular indulgence among elite competitors is Dad's oatmeal cookies, she explained.

Many of the Winter Games events are drawn out over multiple days, requiring athletes to watch their portions.

"They can't eat as much because they may not be expending as much energy as they would in training," Erdman said. "We leave it up to the athletes. I'm not policing what they eat.... My job is to make sure … they have what they need and that it's nutritional — but as well that there are the comfort foods they might need for that emotional support."

In short supply

There were concerns about the lack of allergy-specific and dietary foods, such as gluten-free bread and certain types of cereal and pasta.

- The COC arranged to have many of those items flown in.

Kelly Anne Erdman, a dietitian and University of Calgary graduate, at the Olympic Oval. Erdman is currently in Sochi aiding Canada's athletes with any and all food-related concerns. COURTESY RILEY BRANDT/UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

South Africa. Premier kept in dark on cheaper trip option: Staff

Confusion and finger-pointing over Premier Alison Redford's $45,000 trip to Nelson Mandela's funeral continued Thursday as her office suggested bureaucrats kept her staff in the dark about cheaper flight options.

Part of the $45,000 bill included a cross-country trip on an Alberta government plane to Ottawa, so that Redford could meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper's delegation heading to South Africa.

Redford's office said earlier this week the premier had to take the government plane because there were no commercial flights available.

But the Opposition Wildrose party noted Thursday that Air Canada had a flight landing in Ottawa about two hours before Redford had to be on the tarmac with Harper.

An Air Canada spokeswoman confirmed there were open seats on that flight, which involved a trip from Calgary to Winnipeg and then from Winnipeg to Ottawa.

"While we cannot disclose specific numbers, both flights on Dec. 8 departed with open seats," Angela Mah confirmed in an email.

WestJet also had a direct flight to Ottawa that day, but a spokesman declined to disclose seat availability.

Redford's spokeswoman, Neala Barton, said in an email that the premier's office was given two flight options from bureaucrats in the International and Intergovernmental Relations Department, but neither could guarantee Redford would arrive in Ottawa on time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dozens attend vigil for LGBT rights on eve of Games

Marilyn McIntosh, left, mouths "I love you" to wife Toni Vere during a vigil for LGBTQ rights at Hillhurst United Church on Thursday. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Hours before the Olympic cauldron was due to be lit in Sochi, Russia, dozens packed a Calgary church for a candlelight vigil in support of gay rights.

The Winter Games, set to officially kick off early Friday, have been mired in controversy for months after the Russian government passed legislation banning public displays of affection among members of the same sex as well as all pro-LGBTQ rallies and public demonstrations.

In response, more than a hundred packed the Hillhurst United Church to sing, light candles and pledge to not stand idly by as the Games go on.

Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman didn't hesitate in comparing the discrimination to that displayed by Nazi Germany against the Jewish people, all the while hosting the 1936 Olympics.

"When the world became of open discrimination and open hate, the world shrugs its shoulders and says, 'We're sure that these Olympic Games will have a therapeutic effect, that things will obviously change' — as if we didn't experience 1936 before," he told the crowd.

"We need to raise our consciousness."

Aaron Cheshire attended the vigil with friends. He said he was sickened to learn of the policies of the Olympic host.

"It makes me glad to live where I do.... Imagine not being able to be myself," he said. "I couldn't deal with that." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Nenshi chimes in

Mayor Naheed Nenshi could not make the vigil but wrote a message to those in attendance.

- "What to do in the face of discrimination? We display strength and unity. We stand together in the unshakable belief that the ... Games should be fully and unequivocally open to all."

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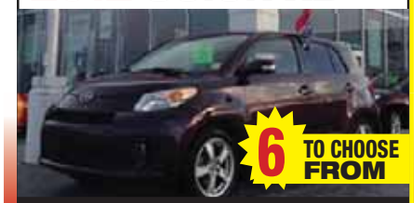

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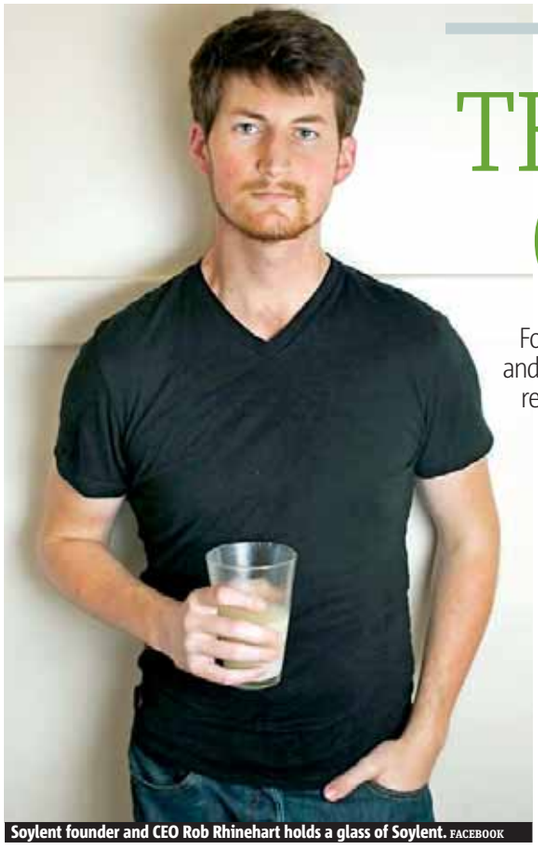

Soylent founder and CEO Rob Rhinehart holds a glass of Soylent. FACEBOOK

THE FUTURE OF FOOD?

Founder of Soylent says healthy food is expensive and difficult to prepare — and his controversial meal replacement product could be coming to Canada

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
Metro in Toronto

Canadians won't have to wait for a far-off dystopian future to try the controversial Soylent meal replacement product, as the inventor says the company is eyeing Canada as its first international market after it begins shipping to U.S. customers on March 1.

CEO Rob Rhinehart was an electrical engineer at a start-up in California, with insufficient time and money to eat well, when he decided to create something fast and cheap that contains everything humans need to survive.

Soylent comes in two packets, powder and oil, that are mixed with water to form a grayish liquid. It contains no people and costs less than $10 a day.

"Traditionally, healthy food can be very difficult to prepare and very expensive," said Rhinehart. Soylent has a nutrition label that shows a full complement of nutrients, along with carbs, protein and fibre.

"There's a lot of regulation in food," said Rhinehart. "We have gone through all of the hurdles and testing and labelling and process control."

Rhinehart said the label doesn't tell the whole story — that Soylent has a complete amino acid profile and, according to the company's tests, a low glycemic index.

Rhinehart was Soylent's first test subject and he lives "90 per cent" on Soylent today, eating only the occasional social meal. He's gone through long periods of eating only Soylent, and "beta testers" — a tech term for people who try out a new product before it's release — have done the same.

Soylent raised more than $2 million in pre-orders and found venture capital support. It has a community of DIY Soylent makers working on their own Soylent-like food hacks.

It also has many critics.

Two Canadian doctors who are experts in nutrition recommended that consumers wait until Soylent undergoes clinical testing.

Dr. David Lau, a professor of medicine biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Calgary and the president of Obesity Canada, said Soylent's ingredients "appear very complete," but he's concerned about how well they will be absorbed.

Gut flora, the micro-organisms that live in the digestive tract, are essential to human health but are still not well understood and the effect a Soylent diet would have is unknown, he said.

He said using beta testers is "hocus pocus" and doesn't replace clinical trials that could determine the long-term effects of Soylent.

Dr. David Jenkins, a University of Toronto professor and the Canada research chair in nutrition and metabolism, said he'd like to see testing on the product's glycemic index. How the body absorbs Soylent and its post-meal effects are essential to understanding how useful and healthy it is, he said.

Rhinehart has dealt with similar concerns in the past. "If this becomes a problem the amounts can be changed to compensate," he wrote in a post on his site.

Living on Soylent

"If someone starts doing this to simplify their lives, they don't have to spend as much time eating well and just by default will end up getting a lot healthier."
Soylent founder and CEO Rob Rhinehart

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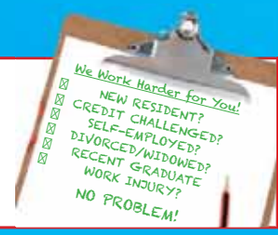

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Mali. Public opposition slowly turning the tide on female circumcision

When Dicko Ongoiba was a little girl, female genital cutting was such a tradition that no one in her community discussed it. Like her mother did, 40-year-old Ongoiba subjected her first six daughters to what is sometimes referred to as female circumcision. But she has since learned more about ramifications, and now she wants to spare her two youngest daughters.

On Thursday, the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Ongoiba joined hundreds of residents of a town outside Mali's capital for a public declaration swearing off female genital cutting, which affects 89 per cent of Malian women in some regions.

It was the second public declaration organized in Mali by the non-governmental organization Tostan, which has worked with 7,000 communities in eight African countries to denounce cutting.

In recent years the prevalence of female genital cutting had gone down in Mali, but very slowly.

Although community leaders sometimes justify the practice on religious grounds, in recent years a growing number of religious leaders have noted there is no mention of female genital cutting in the Qur'an. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What it is

Female circumcision involves removing some or all of a girl's external genitals, usually without anesthesia, leading to the loss of sexual pleasure, but also more difficult childbirths, urinary incontinence and other complications.

- Of the three different types of female circumcision practised in Mali, the most severe is infibulation and involves removal of external genitalia and the narrowing of the vaginal opening.

Ukraine protesters 'tired of waiting' for Parliament to act

Anti-government protesters armed with sticks rally near the parliament building in central Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday. About 2,000 demonstrators marched toward parliament carrying a banner reading: "We are tired of waiting." Protesters said they were ready to resume clashes with police, if Parliament's inaction continued. They want President Viktor Yanukovych to resign and a new election to be held, as well as more human rights and less corruption in their nation of 45 million people. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Student's death spurs debate on segregation

Saudi university. Male paramedics not given immediate permission to enter campus to treat female: Witness

Thousands of Saudis vented their anger online over a report Thursday that staff at a Riyadh university had barred male paramedics from entering a women's-only campus to assist a student who had suffered a heart attack and later died.

The Okaz newspaper said administrators at King Saud University impeded efforts by the paramedics to save the student's life because of rules banning men from being on-site. According to the paper, the incident took place on Wednesday and the university staff took an hour before allowing the paramedics in.

However, the university's rector, Badran Al-Omar, denied the report, saying there was no hesitation in letting the paramedics in. He said the university did all it could to save the life of the student, who was identified as Amna Bawazeer.

Her death sparked a debate on Twitter by Saudis, who created a hashtag to talk about the incident. In the debate, many Saudis said the kingdom's strictly enforced rules governing the segregation of the sexes were to blame for the delay in helping Bawazeer.

Following Wednesday's incident, professors at King Saud University also demanded an investigation.

One staff member who witnessed the situation said paramedics were not called immediately. She said they were also not given immediate permission to enter the campus and that it appeared that the female dean of the university and the female dean of the college of social studies panicked.

Al-Omar said the staff called campus health officials within minutes of Bawazeer collapsing and that about 25 minutes later they called paramedics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We need management who can make quick decisions without thinking of what the family will say or what culture will say."

Aziza Youssef, a professor at King Saud University

India

Seven arrested for alleged gang rape

Police say they have arrested seven people for allegedly raping a co-worker's wife and aunt in Mukti Rachak, a village 40 kilometres north of Kolkata in India's West Bengal state.

A rash of rapes in India has sparked widespread outrage over chronic sexual violence and government failures to protect women.

The man's 28-year-old wife and 40-year-old aunt were also cut by blades, and were in stable condition in a local hospital.

The suspects had a fight with their co-worker over a road-building project, police said. They later visited his home and committed the crime after plunging the village into darkness by switching off the electricity transformer.

Last month, police said a West Bengal council of elders ordered the gang rape of a 20-year-old woman as punishment for a love affair with a Muslim man who was not from her tribe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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This YouTube screen grab showing two lugers in a suggestive pose is from an ad produced in response to the world wide controversy created by Russia's law barring the promotion of "non-traditional sexual relations." SCREEN GRAB

Russian law is target of new ad

Anti-gay law. Diversity group and Toronto agency collaborate in the creation of a new human rights ad for the Sochi Games

The Olympics have always been a little bit gay.

At least, that's the idea behind a new ad released just days prior to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.

The ad shows two male figures thrusting back and forth as they prepare to take off luge sledding. The 30-second spot was a last minute collaboration between the Canadian Institute of Diversity and Inclusion and Rethink creative agency in Toronto.

Backed with the popular 1980s tune Don't You Want Me by The Human League, it ends with the words: "The Games have always been a little gay. Let's fight to keep them that way."

While homosexuality is no longer illegal in the Olympic host country, it passed a law barring the promotion of "non-traditional sexual relations" to minors.

With just days left before the Games open Friday, Human Rights Watch expressed concerns homophobic violence is escalating.

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Electoral officer strikes back at Tories

Marc Mayrand THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elections Act. Debate about sweeping changes has been shut down in the House

Canada's chief electoral officer says the only team sweater he wears is the striped "white and black," and that a Conservative overhaul of the Elections Act will take the referee off the ice.

In his first comments on sweeping new elections legislation by the Harper government, Marc Mayrand says he hopes there is extensive public consultation and debate over the proposed changes.

Mayrand was responding to comments by Conservative minister Pierre Poilievre, who introduced the bill Tuesday by saying Canada's elections referee "should not be wearing a team jersey."

"Listen, the only team jersey that I think I'm wearing — if we have to carry the analogy — I believe is the one with the stripes, white and black," a shaking Mayrand said after a hearing on Parliament Hill.

"What I note from this bill is that no longer will the referee be on the ice."

Mayrand's reaction comes as the government moves to shut down debate in the House of Commons and speed the legislation to committee.

Among other things, the bill would allow political parties to spend more during campaigns, set rules for using robocalls and impose stiffer penalties on those who abuse automated telephone messaging.

Poilievre's opening shot at the impartiality of Elections Canada came after years of investigations of alleged Conservative wrongdoing that began with the in-and-out financing scheme in the 2006 campaign that brought Prime Minister Stephen Harper to power. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Not going to change'

Rob Ford refuses to attend pride

Toronto's mayor is back in the spotlight after making comments about the city's prominent gay pride festival. "I'm not going to go to the pride parade," he told the audience at a debate for mayoral hopefuls running in October's municipal election. "I've never been to a pride parade. So I'm not going to change the way I am." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big boost

Flu shot was 74% effective: Study

A new Canadian study suggests this year's flu shot offered good protection to people who received it. The study says the shot was 74 per cent effective at preventing flu so severe that people needed medical treatment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget office

Public-sector sick days cost $871M

The federal budget watchdog says public servants take an average of 11.5 paid sick days a year, compared with 18 days reported by Treasury Board President Tony Clement. The parliamentary budget office estimates the salary paid for sick days reached $871 million in 2011-12, about 68 per cent higher than 10 years prior. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kicking the homeless

Online video may result in charges

Vancouver police say they found videos of a man allegedly kicking two homeless people in the groin in exchange for money "extremely concerning" and are considering laying charges. A video that appeared on YouTube Wednesday shows the suspect kicking the two victims. METRO

Drummer in Harper's band charged with sex assault

The RCMP says Phillip I. Nolan, who plays drums in a band that often accompanies Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is facing charges of sexual assault and sexual interference against two girls.

A spokesman for Harper says the Prime Minister's Office is "shocked and disturbed" by the charges, which allegedly involve two girls under the age of 14 at the time of the incidents.

Nolan, 43, is also a teacher at Avalon Public School, a middle school in east Ottawa. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board said in a statement Nolan was removed from the classroom when an investigation began and was suspended Thursday after Ottawa police laid the charges.

Nolan faces five counts each of sexual assault, sexual interference, and sexual exploitation.

After a court released him on a $5,000 bond Thursday afternoon, his Toronto-based lawyer, Lou Strezos, said his client is also "very shocked" about the charges.

"He has no criminal record," said Strezos. "He maintains his innocence."

Police allege the incidents took place between 1998 and 2000 during Nolan's tenure as a teacher of Grade 7 and 8 students.

Police said in a news release they are concerned there could be other complainants in the case.

Harper's office said it had no inkling about the matter.

"We are obviously shocked and disturbed by these serious charges," the PM's communications director Jason MacDonald said in a statement. JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Phil Nolan, far right, who plays drums in the band that often accompanies Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is facing multiple charges of sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual exploitation. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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CAN-142002_1402_CALMET

Olympian Cherie Piper offers her predictions for the 2014 Games

About Cherie Piper:

- **Age:** 32
- **Olympic gold medals:** Three — 2002, 2006 and 2010
- **World Championships:** One — 2004
- **Retired from Team Canada:** Spring of 2013

Canadian to watch

Natalie Spooner, from Toronto. She's big, strong, a natural goal scorer.

International player to watch:

Noora Raty, known as the Finnish Fence. She gives Finland very strong goaltending. She's a game-changer.

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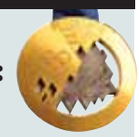


There were jeers before cheers

Cherie Piper at Blyth Academy in Whitby. She became an elementary teacher at the school after retiring from Team Canada, and coaches hockey in the school's advanced sports program.
ELIZABETH BEDDALL/METRO

'Out on the ice, you can hear everything.' Olympic gold-medallist and Canadian hockey hero overcame taunts, insults to succeed

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
Metro in Toronto

Cherie Piper is a Canadian hockey hero.

So who would bully her?

Me. And a good many others from my high school.

In 1996, Piper's high school, Albert Campbell CI, played my school, Sir Winston Churchill, in the Scarborough B finals.

When we met last month, Piper said she remembers that game well. "Out on the ice, you can hear everything that's yelled," she said. Ouch!

Churchill had a bus full of students at the arena to cheer on our girls. And we didn't know the difference between supporting our team and putting down the opposition.

And Piper was the opposition. She skated circles around our girls and scored most goals in the blowout that followed.

Sharon Mejia, now 34, played against Piper.

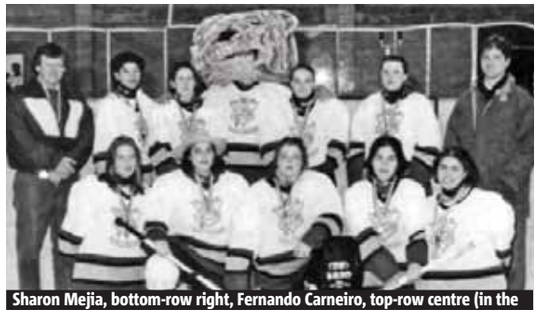
"It was very frustrating, because she was clearly way above everybody else on the team," Mejia said.

So the Churchill crowd, mostly boys who saw the game as an opportunity to skip class, booed Piper. A lot.

"We were rowdy. We said things to bring her confidence down," said Imer Hernandez, who was in the stands.

Mejia said the more Piper was booed, the more she seemed to want the puck, and as Campbell ran up the score, the more insulting the Churchill kids became. The insults eventually turned sexual.

I was there, as Churchill's mascot, wearing a bulldog costume with an oversized head. I remember looking through the eyeholes and seeing Piper's dad put his arm around her mom as she wiped her eyes.



Sharon Mejia, bottom-row right, Fernando Carneiro, top-row centre (in the bulldog costume) and the 1996 Sir Winston Churchill women's hockey team.
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL 1995-96 YEARBOOK

"My mom and dad used their energy to protect me," Piper said.

While people accused her of embarrassing the other team, Piper said she thought of her teammates, many using equipment borrowed from Piper.

"Our goalie one year had never put on skates before," Piper said. "I used to run skating drills with the girls."

She remembers their weekly practices well. "Nobody understands how much fun we had as a team," she said.

Nearly 16 years later, Hernandez said he's impressed by Piper's mental toughness.

"She was so young. I'd like to congratulate her for playing to the best of her ability while blocking all that."

As rough as the insults hurled at Piper in the Scarborough finals were, she said they're far from the worst.

Due to a shortage of girls playing hockey, when Piper was eight, her parents had the choice of enrolling her in an under-16 women's league or a team of eight-year-old boys. They chose the boys' league.

"Some of the worst things were things that mothers from the other team would yell at me. They would tell their sons to go injure me or kill me," Piper said. "They couldn't handle the fact that their son was beat by a girl."

The behaviour of the Churchill kids at the Scarborough finals is learned behaviour, Piper said. She's now in a position to influence children differently — since retiring from the national team, she has become a teacher for Blyth Academy in Whitby.

"In my classroom there's no putting people down. There's no treating people differently," Piper said. "Retirement (from hockey) has been nice. I'm just enjoying being a normal person and not having to be at the rink or practice all the time."

When we parted, I apologized on behalf of Churchill.

She accepted it graciously.

Little Cherie

The girl? She's the one who scored on you

The first time Chris Piper watched her daughter climb a rope in gymnastics she was in for a big surprise. "Oh my God! That's my kid?" she asked.

While most other children were wobbling along, Cherie made it to the top.

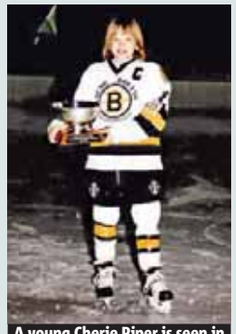
To her mom, it was unfair that as a child Cherie was singled out for being "too good" and for taking up a spot on a boy's team.

"We would be at a tournament and hear parents talk about one team having a girl. They wouldn't look at the top players, they always guessed the boy with the long hair. They would yell at him and say that he shouldn't be on the ice," Chris Piper said. "I would reply, 'See the player who just put the puck in your net? That's the girl.'"

But there were times when Cherie cried.

"I said, 'Honey, if you want to quit, make it your decision. Don't let those people make the decision for you.'"

FERNANDO CARNEIRO/METRO



A young Cherie Piper is seen in this undated photo.
COURTESY CHRIS PIPER

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Rubber hits the road

It's namaste for yoga-mat chemical in Subway's bread

Subway says it's in the process of removing a chemical from its bread as part of an ongoing effort to improve its recipes. The news comes after a blogger launched a petition this week asking the sandwich chain to stop using azodicarbonamide. The chemical, used in the bread "as a bleaching agent," is also used to make yoga mats and rubber shoes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

241M users in 2013

Twitter could use more followers as stock drops

Twitter's stock is sinking on worries that the online short-messaging service is not popular enough.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX
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OIL
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Natural gas: $5.02 US (-$0.14)
Dow Jones: 15,628.53 (+188.30)

Will BlackBerry meet its Waterloo in keyboard battle?

Or will it be Seacrest out? Typo Products and Canada-based company in war of words over QWERTY iPhone add-on

Typo Products says BlackBerry is trying to hold a monopoly over smartphone keyboards, and that it shouldn't have to take its new iPhone case off the market.

The Los Angeles-based company, co-founded by American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, filed documents Wednesday in a California court defending itself against a patent infringement lawsuit.

BlackBerry accuses Typo of copying its keyboard design in an effort to capitalize on the smartphone maker's "commercial recognition and goodwill."

The company is seeking numerous rulings, including damages from Typo, all of Typo's profits and a stop to future sales of the keyboard technology.

The suit was filed in January and none of the allegations have been tested in court.

Typo disputes the claims made by BlackBerry, saying consumers will not be confused between the iPhone keyboard case, which sells for $99 US, and an actual BlackBerry smartphone.

Typo Products' iPhone keyboard case.
TYPO PRODUCTS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Typo case attaches to an iPhone 5 or 5S, the most recent Apple smartphone models, both of which have touchscreen keyboards. The case adds about six millimetres in thickness and less than two centimetres in length.

About $1.4 million US was spent to develop the Typo keyboard, and the company has sold about 4,000 cases since it debuted last month, said the legal documents.

Production capacity allows Typo to produce about 10,000 cases per month, it said.

So far, the Typo case has generated plenty of interest with orders for both January and February sold out, according to the company's website.

The idea for the Typo keyboard was born when Seacrest and its co-founder Laurence Hallier noticed their friends were carrying two phones — "one for typing and correspondence and an iPhone for virtually everything else," the company said on its website.

When BlackBerry filed its suit in January, the Waterloo, Ont.-based company outlined specifics of its keyboard layout and the roots of the current design in meticulous detail.

In its response, Typo attached pictures of various keyboard designs that date as far back as Smith Corona typewriters.

"BlackBerry never disclosed any of these Smith Corona products to the patent office," Typo said in the documents. "The QWERTY keyboard has been around since the 1870s and has been present in many messaging devices." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 Black History Month. It's February again, and another great opportunity to learn all about the heroes that have shaped, not just the history of black people in North America, but the whole world. Until it's over and schools go right back to using the same old textbooks. Something tells me we're still a few Februarys away from complete enlightenment. #BHM

2 Bad, bad boy. It was the end of the world. There was darkness and violence and depravity. There were loud noises of motors running high, children crying and sirens wailing. Signs of the apocalypse? Nope, just Justin Bieber on the news again. #Bieber, #Bieberstripper, #DUI....

3 #MattressMack. The Houston furniture store owner's promotion backfired when he offered customers a full refund if the Seahawks were to beat the Broncos. Jim McIngvalen honoured his commitment to the tune of $7 million, but he did it gladly, because it was still cheaper than running a commercial during the Super Bowl.

4 SUPER BOWL XLVIII. Poor Peyton Manning. All everyone did was talk about his football pedigree and five MVPs, but the closest the Broncos came to a touchdown dance was Bruno Mars' halftime performance. Oh sure, they scored a touchdown, but not while anyone was still watching. #worstsuperbowlever

5 5 Seconds of Summer. I have never heard a single original song by this Australian boy band, but the social media gods seem to smile on them because #5SOS keeps trending high. That's a whole lot of tweets. Now, if only they were actually saying something.

6 Woody Allen. The only thing funny about this story is how many twitter-ers or twits, or whatever, did not know that Allen was once pseudo-stepfather to Soon-Yi, his wife. Some argue that she was adopted by Mia Farrow, not Woody, though he dated her for 12 of the child's formative years. It is not illegal. But to put matters into perspective, Allen and Farrow's biological son Ronan once said, "My father is married to my sister. I'm his son and his brother-in-law!" #What??

7 Hoop-la. Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry was named the NBA's Eastern Conference Player of the Week, despite having been snubbed for the All-Star game. Technically, that was last week, but I still haven't gotten over it.

8 I spy. John Forster, head of Canada's eavesdropping agency, was all over social media and the news when he denied spying or any breach of privacy. For most of us, it was enough to just discover that we had an EAVESDROPPING agency!

9 Carrying the torch. Earlier this week, despite concerns about the venue for this year's winter games, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Sochi was ready. That could mean they're ready for the games, or that all pro-gay activists have been contained. Either way, they're ready. #sochi2014

10 Facebook. The pioneer social media site celebrated their 10th birthday this week. Ten years since dear old friends who'd drifted apart could find each other again, and 10 years since everyone else could too. Cheers! #BestofFacebook

ZOOM

Sochi starts, protests continue

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The world is watching

Gay rights activists stage a protest that they say evokes the hate crimes and humiliations that are motivated by homophobia in Russia, in Antwerp, Belgium, Thursday. The Sochi Winter Olympics have begun, and many will be watching to see whether Russia will enforce its law banning gay "propaganda" among minors if athletes, fans or activists wave rainbow flags or speak out in protest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IOC's stance

- The IOC has reminded athletes that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites." Athletes will be free to express their opinions at news conferences, however.

Russia's stance

- Vladimir Putin has said gays will be welcome in Sochi if they "leave the kids alone."
- Russia initially banned protests during the Games. Following international outcry, it set up a designated protest zone.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Just because you're not in Sochi for the Winter Games doesn't mean you can't pretend. With your phone at your fingertips there are plenty of podium-ready apps to help you get into the Olympic spirit.

Sochi 2014 Medal Alert:

The official app of the Winter Games, it allows you to follow your favourite events or teams and get notified whenever a medal is awarded. Available for both Android and iOS.

SkiFree:

A veritable classic, this retro downhill skiing game has been ported to iOS. Follow an intrepid skier as he carves through gates while avoiding obstacles and the occasional Yeti. An Android version of the game, entitled You Are The Yeti!, lets you play as the titular sasquatch.

Age of Curling:

Nothing says Winter Olympics like burning a rock in the fourth end. If that sentence made any sense to you, try Age of Curling for iOS. Hailed as one of the better mobile curling games, it lets you play at venues like an 18th century Scottish castle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Twitter

The creator of the Labradoodle says he has regrets about starting the designer dog craze because of health risks. But if you could mix any two breeds (with no health repercussions), what would you make?

@Zom8ieQuEEn a pit bull and a grey hound better watch out when it catches ya lol

@evilaudi why must people cross breed dogs? There are so many breeds to choose from it is impossible to not pick one

@kjwburf I love my Bugg (Boston Terrier x Pug)

@MegBlumenthal I would mix a Shar-Pei and a Poodle. The refined 'Poo-Pei'

@Canucklehead_ca Clearly 'Snoop Dogg' with 'Pitbull'. (I have no idea how breeding works)

Letters

RE: Website Helps Women Get Free Breast Implants, published Feb. 5, 2014

There are many people in countries that need life saving surgery and do not have the money. For the girl that wants breast implants and is getting donations, maybe you should just be thanking God that you have your health. **A. Grossi, Toronto**

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Synopsis

Based on the book The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History by Robert M. Edsel, the movie stars Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban and Hugh Bonneville as a motley crew of art historians, engineers and museum directors recruited to locate and rescue priceless art works stolen by the Nazis. When two members of their team are killed they are no longer observers but active participants in the war.

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

George Clooney co-wrote The Monuments Men, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Nothing monumental

The Monuments Men. George-Clooney-penned story about saving art in the Second World War skews a little too sentimental

Richard: Mark, this is a wartime comedy. Think Hogan's Heroes by way of Leonardo Da Vinci and you'll get the idea. It has some mild laughs — the biggest giggle, for Canadians anyway, comes from the Parisians who blame Matt Damon's terrible French on having spent too much time in Montreal — but also a great deal of reverence for the art and the work of the real-life monuments men. But what might have been an edgy, exciting look at an underreported slice of World War II history is reduced to an elegantly directed but somewhat dull film.

Mark: Richard, I was really looking forward to this movie. Three of my major obsessions are George Clooney, Nazis and art, although not necessarily in that order. But you're right; the movie is kind of a snooze in parts. There are some great scenes, but they don't quite add up. And at no time did I feel much of a sense of danger, probably because the war is ending and the Germans are already on the run. The great cast is mostly split up during the movie, so the expected camaraderie is absent. But there's one great reason to see this movie, and that's the prominent role of prickly nerd Bob Balaban.

RC: The cast is terrific. Balaban is a great actor, and an underused one, so it's always cool to see him trotted out in anything, but for me Bill Murray shows, once again, in a brief scene in a shower (no spoilers here), how his understated style can move an audience. No problems with the acting, but co-writers Clooney and longtime collaborator Grant Heslov appear to have taken a dose of sentimentality pills before putting pen to paper. The earnest, reverential tone is reinforced by old school pacing that focuses on the character and art over action and a rousing soundtrack that sounds airlifted in from a classic wartime era movie.

MB: Bill Murray, as always, proves that less is indeed more. There's a quasi-romance between Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett that seemed forced to me, not to mention she wears the ugliest pair of shoes in the history of cinema. But all through the movie there's a moral dilemma that keeps being rammed down our throats. Is art valuable enough to risk human life for? The movie tells us over and over that it is, but to be honest, Richard, I'm not so sure. And if you're not sure, the urgency falls apart.

RC: It seems like you noticed Blanchett's shoes more than the art. Therein lies the movie's central problem.

MB: Well, I'm more of a modernist anyway. When they tell the story of how the Germans burned the Klees, Braques, and Picassos I nearly wept. This isn't a bad movie, Richard. I just hoped for a great one.

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Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Cornish on a Robocop rewind

A simpler time. Australian actress reminisces about watching 1980s classic until her VHS tape wore out

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Robocop, starring Abbie Cornish, opens next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

Abbie Cornish has fond memories of the original Robocop, having grown up in Australia watching, re-watching and eventually wearing out a VHS copy of the 1987 film at far too young an age, thanks to her older brothers. So she hopes other fans of Paul Verhoeven's ultra-violent action flick will take her involvement in José Padilha's PG-13 remake as a major vote of confidence.

It was a different time, when you had to worry about VHS tapes wearing out.
And it was so devastating when they did — or if they tore! And sometimes you couldn't replace them either. It seems so silly, you'd be 10 years later trying to find another VHS of Robocop and you can't. It's like all of a sudden it becomes a collector's item.

What were some of your favourite parts of the original?
I mean, that scene is crazy when he goes in on his own and he gets blown apart. I know it sounds really violent because I was, like, 5 or 6 when I watched that, but that scene is just insane. It's really classic. I love that movie. I really enjoyed watching it again. I watched it a couple of times before we made the movie, and people were like, 'Don't do that!' I was like, 'But I love it!'

Plus, this version is pretty different from the original.
Yeah, it's different. It's a whole different entity. Look, I really hope that the people who are skeptical about the film and are saying that they're not going to watch it because 'we love the original Robocop and they shouldn't have remade it,' I really hope that they go to the cinemas and watch it because I think that they'll be pleasantly surprised.

The default position of any remake is skepticism, though.
I guess so. Maybe I've just never been privy to it. We retell stories all the time. Sometimes they're very well done and sometimes not so well done.

Animation

The Lego Movie

Director. Phil Lord, Christopher Miller

Stars. Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks

This story follows Emmet (Chris Pratt), an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. He is drafted into a fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant, a journey for which Emmet is hopelessly and hilariously under-prepared.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 100% **Audience:** + 96%

Action-Comedy

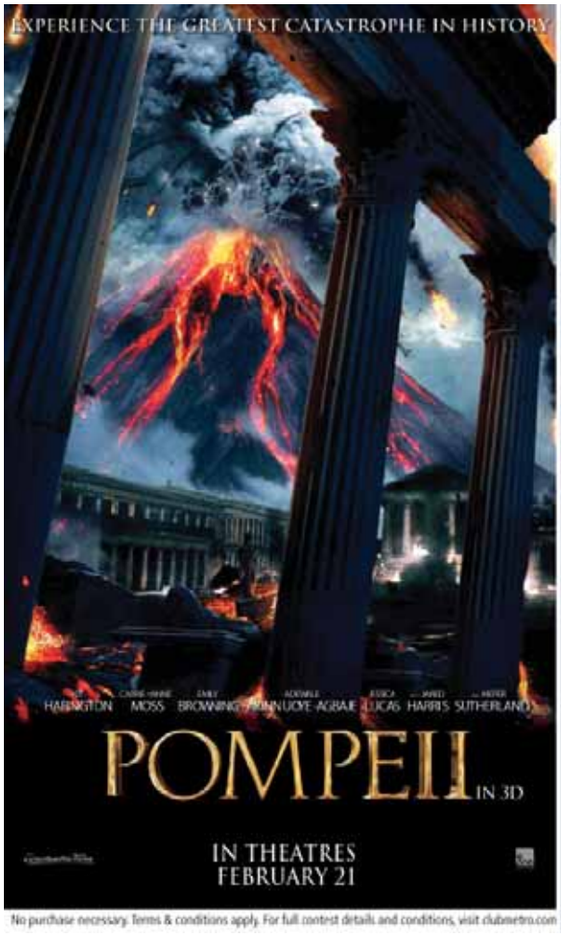
Vampire Academy

Director. Mark Waters

Stars. Zoey Deutch, Lucy Fry, Daniela Kozlovsky

Rose Hathaway (Deutch) is a Dhampir: half human-vampire, guardians of the Moroi, peaceful, mortal vampires living discretely within our world. Her legacy is to protect the Moroi from bloodthirsty, immortal Vampires, the Strigoi. This is her story.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: TBA **Audience:** + 86 %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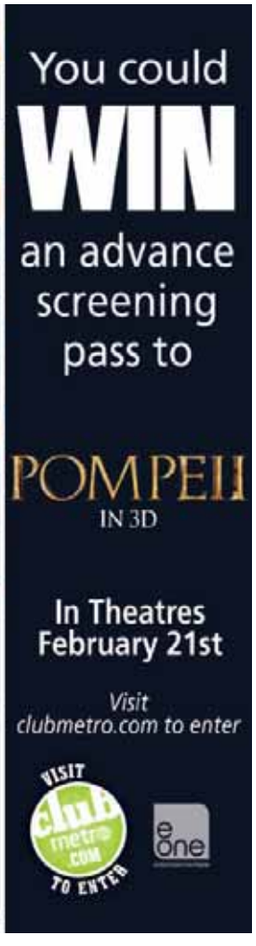

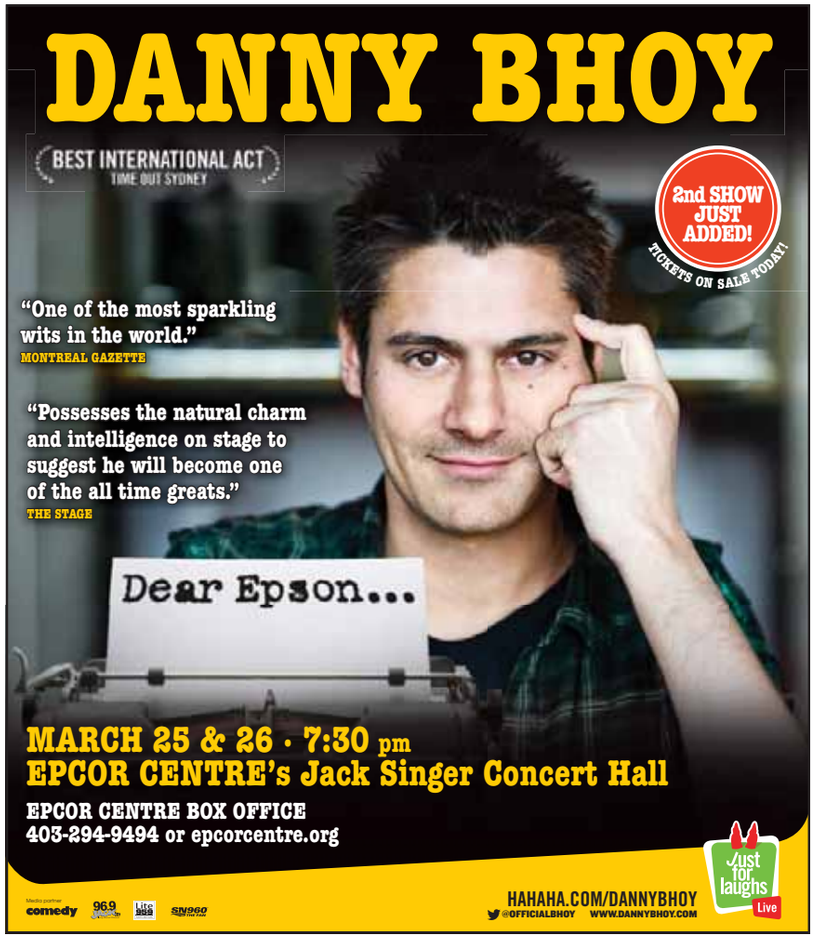
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Filmmaking gets a little more Femme

Femmes Lab. What started as a wild idea at the Whistler Film Festival has turned into a screenplay writing boot camp for six lucky women

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Filmmaker Ingrid Veninger says the pitch for the script writing initiative Femmes Lab, "could have back-fired badly."

The actor-turned-director-turned-Renaissance-woman was on stage at the Whistler Film Festival in December receiving an EDA award from the Alliance of Women Film Journalists for her latest film, The Animal Project, when a notion struck her.

"I started to talk about the Femmes Lab at the podium," says Veninger. "Six Canadian women will write six screenplays in six months. Then I took the leap to invite someone to step up for $6,000. At first the room was silent. So, I started counting down: 6, 5 ... and before I hit 4, a women shot her arms in the air and said, 'I'll do it!' My heart was racing and it was only later I realized it was Melissa Leo. Melissa approached me quietly and said, 'This is going to happen. I will get you a cheque before the end of the year.' And, she did."

For her donation, the Frozen River Academy Award winner Leo gets a first look at six scripts written by a hand-picked group of female Canadian writers and directors including Veninger, Danishka Esterhazy, Michelle Latimer, Sophie Deraspe, Anais Granofsky and Mars Horodyski.

"It's not your traditional kind of script development," says Veninger, "that's for sure. It's almost more like a coven. We're not actually casting spells, as we conjure these new screenplays, but sort of.

Ingrid Veninger. CONTRIBUTED

The nuts and bolts is that we meet in person once a month from January until June, mostly in Toronto. And, month to month we each have to move our screenplays forward, so that by the end of June, we have six completed scripts. But what happens in the actual lab session is a secret. I can say that in my past 20 years of making movies, I have not experienced anything like this. First off, the six of us are very different and we bring a diverse range of experiences and perspectives to the table. Our sessions are minimally nine hours, but can also last the whole weekend."

One of the participants, Mars Horodyski, said, "For me the pUNK Films Femmes Lab offers a supportive creative space where you are encouraged to do something different, brave and representative of who you really are. Something really special happens when you get a group of women together to collaborate in this way. It's different from anything I've ever been a part of and I'm excited to see the outcome."

Veninger says this edition of pUNK Films Femme Lab is likely to be "a one time thing. I'm happy to spark the fire, but it's most exciting to see how others keep it going."

It seems that spark is about to ignite.

"After Whistler, I received a message from a filmmaker in L.A. saying, "we should do a Femmes Lab in Los Angeles", and my response was, 'go ahead and do it. Make it happen. We have nothing to lose. Now is the time.'"

Quoted

"I can say that in my past 20 years of making movies, I have not experienced anything like this. First off, the six of us are very different and we bring a diverse range of experiences and perspectives to the table."

Ingrid Veninger on writing a script in the Femmes Lab

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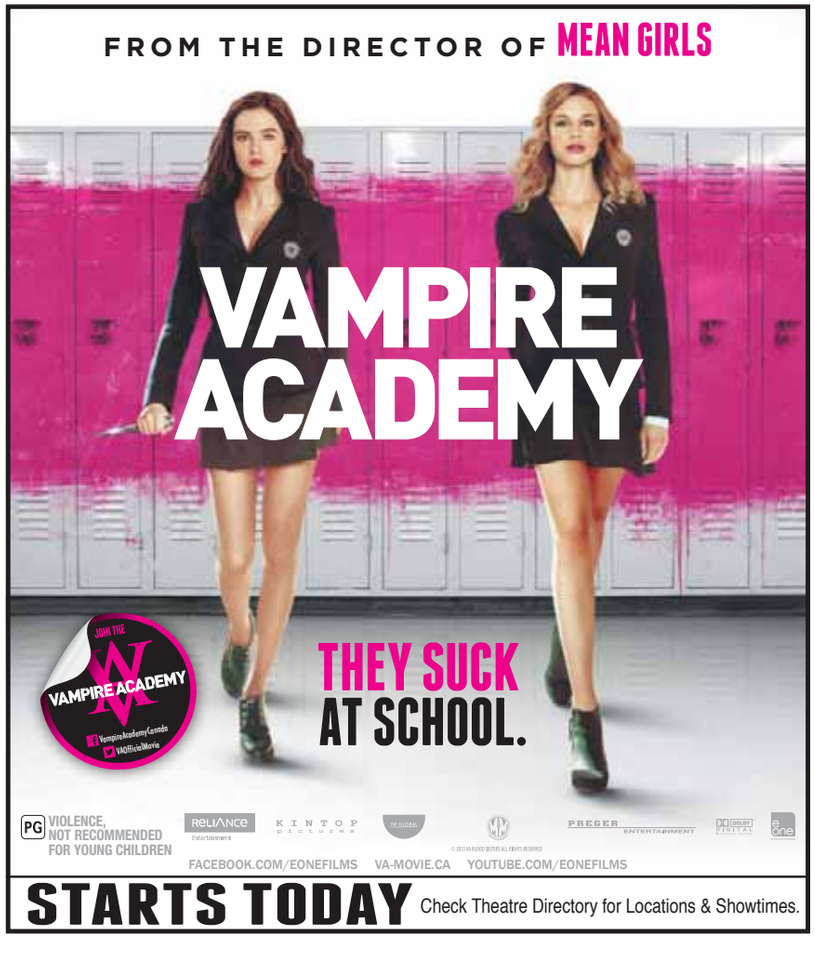
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Canyon Meadows Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail

47 Ronin (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:55
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-6:45-9:40
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:55-9:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Mon 1-3:30 Tue 1 Wed-Thu 1-3:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:25-10
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Mon 7-9:50 Wed-Thu 7-9:50
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:20
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:35
The Saratov Approach (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:05-7:20-9:45
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10-10
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:15-9:55
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05

Crowfoot Crossing 91 Crowfoot Terrace

American Hustle (14A) Fri 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon 1-3:55-9:45 Tue-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
The Big Chill (STC) Mon 7
A Cinderella Story (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 2:05 Sat-Sun 12:05 Mon-Thu 2:05
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5-7:35 Sat-Sun 2:35-5-7:35 Mon-Thu 5-7:45
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri 1:25 Sat-Sun 1:15 Mon-Tue 1:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 4:25 Sat-Sun 4:30 Mon-Tue 4:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 8:10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 2:15-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sat 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:40-10:10
Labor Day (PG) Fri 1:45-4:20-7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:20-6:55-9:35
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 1:35-4:10-6:45 Sat 11:05-1:35-4:10-6:45 Sun-Tue 1:35-4:10-6:45 Wed 4:10-6:45 Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 2:25-4:50-7:25-9:55 Sat 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:55 Sun 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:25-9:50
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sat 10:10 Sun-Thu 9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka (STC) Sat 10:55
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 1:15-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:55 Wed 4:05-7:05-9:55 Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The Nut Job (G) Fri 2:45 Sat-Sun 12:50 Mon-Thu 2:45
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri 5:10-7:20 Sat-Sun 3-5:10-7:20 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:30
Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sat 10:30 Sun 10:05 Mon-Thu 10:15
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 1:25-4:30-7:20-10:05
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Sat 9:50 Sun-Thu 9:30
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri 2:35-5:30-8-10:20 Sat 12:25-2:55-5:30-8-10:20 Sun 12:25-2:55-5:30-7:55-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:25-7:55-10:15
Vampire Academy (PG) Fri 1:55-4:35-7:50-10:25 Sat 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:50-10:25 Sun 11:55-2:30-5:05-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:10-10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1:05-4:45-8:30 Sat 4:40-8:25 Sun 12:55-4:40-8:25 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:45-8:25

Eau Claire Market 200 Barlay Parade

American Hustle (14A) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
August: Osage County (14A) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 9:20 Sat-Sun 3:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 8:50
Labor Day (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 7:15-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 7:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7:45 Mon-Thu 7:45

Landmark Cinemas 16 Country Hills 388 Country Hills Blvd.

About Last Night (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 7-9:45
American Hustle (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:05-3:10-6:15-9:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:10-6:15-9:25
August: Osage County (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:20-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:20-6:20-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 9:20
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-6:40-9:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 6:40-9:25
Endless Love (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:20
Frozen (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4
Frozen 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-7:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 7:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:45
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:30
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-7:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 7:20
Hasee Toh Phasee (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-6-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6-9:35
I, Frankenstein: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 4:30-10:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:30-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-7:30-10
Labor Day (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 4:10-6:50-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1-4:10-6:50-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 4:10-6:50-9:40
The LEGO Movie (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4-6:45-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:30
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:10-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:15-6:10-9:10
Lone Survivor (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:20
The Monuments Men (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7-10
The Nut Job (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3
The Nut Job 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-6:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30
Philomena (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 9:45
Ride Along (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:45-4:40-7:50-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50-10:15
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 3:15-6:45-9:30
RoboCop: The IMAX Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:45-7:15-10
That Awkward Moment (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:40-4:50-7:40-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:05
Vampire Academy (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:15-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:50-7:15-9:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:15-4:20-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:20-8

Landmark Cinemas 10 Shawnessy & EXTRA Calgarytudio 100-16061 MacLeod Trail

American Hustle (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:40
Endless Love (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 9:40
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-7
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12-4-7:45
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 9:30
Labor Day (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:10-3:10-6:20-9:20 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 1 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-6:20-9:20
The LEGO Movie (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-6:45
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:15-7:15-10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:10-10
Lone Survivor (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:50
The Monuments Men (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:30-7:30-10:20
The Nut Job (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:45
The Nut Job 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-6:30
RoboCop (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-4-7:20-10:15
That Awkward Moment (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium

Seating Fri-Tue 1:45-4:45-7:40-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:45-4:45-10:10
Vampire Academy (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-7:20-10:15 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:20-3:20-7:20-10:15
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:50-8

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon 1-4-10:10 Tue 1-4-7:05-10:10 Wed 1-4-10:10 Thu 1-4
About Last Night (14A) Thu 7-10
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-7:15-9:55
Anohana the Movie: The Flower We Saw That Day (G) Sun 12:45 Wed 7:30
The Big Chill (STC) Mon 7
A Cinderella Story (G) Sat 11
Devil's Due (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Endless Love (PG) No Passes Thu 9
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 2:25 Mon-Thu 5:05
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:05-7:45 Mon-Thu 7:45
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri-Sun 11:35 Mon-Thu 2:25
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Mon 1:40-4:25-9:50 Tue 1:40-4:25-7-9:50
Her (14A) Fri-Thu 10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45 Mon-Thu 1:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:20-7:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12-3:25-6:50-10:15 Sat 6:50-10:15 Sun 3:25-6:50-10:15 Mon-Tue 2:45-6:30-10:05
I, Frankenstein (PG) Fri 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:25
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Sat-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:25-4:15-7:15-10:25 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:15-10:25
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:10-7:25-10:15
Labor Day (PG) Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10:15 Thu 4:40-7:20-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:05-6:40 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:05-6:40
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Thu 4:30-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka (STC) Sat 10:55
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 1:20-4:20-10:20 Sat-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Sun 3:30
Her (14A) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 1:15-6:15 Mon-Wed 7
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun 8:30 Mon-Thu 9:15

Sunridge Spectrum
2555 32nd Street

(STC) Fri-Sun 1:40-5:30-8:45 Mon-Thu 1:45-5:30-8:45
American Hustle (14A) Fri 9:45 Sat 9:35 Sun 9:45 Mon-Thu 9:55
Anohana the Movie: The Flower We Saw That Day (G) Sun 12:50 Wed-Thu 7:30
Bride for Rent (PG) Fri 1:30-5-9 Sat 1:40-5-9 Sun 1:30-5-9 Mon-Thu 1:40-5-9
A Cinderella Story (G) Sat 11
Endless Love (PG) No Passes Thu 9:40
Frozen (G) Fri 12:25 Sat 11:10 Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 1:30
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 3:10-7 Sat 1:50-6:50 Sun 3:10-7 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 1:20-5:10-8:55 Sat 12:30-4:30-8:30 Sun 1:20-5:10-8:55 Mon-Tue 1:35-6-9:30
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 12:55-3:30-7:55-10:25 Sat 11:50-2:30-6:40-9:10 Sun 12:55-3:30-7:55-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:15-6:40-9:10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 12:40-3:35-7:15-9:55 Sat 11:40-2:20-7:15-9:55 Sun 3:35-7:15-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:20-3:55-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 1:20-3:55-9:55
Labor Day (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:40 Sat 12:50-3:30-7:20-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:05-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:20-10:10
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 1:25-4-6:40 Sat 11-1:35-4:20-6:55 Sun 1:25-4-6:40 Mon-Tue 1-3:30-6 Wed-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:20
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat 11:35-2:10-5-7:35-10:10 Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Thu 5:15-7:35
Odd Thomas (STC) Thu 7:30
Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:15-8:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:35-7:25-10
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:30
RoboCop: The IMAX Experience (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:10-10:05
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:45-3:15-7-9:45 Wed 12:45-3:15-7:10-9:45 Thu 12:45-3:15-7-9:45
Vampire Academy (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Mon-Wed 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:05 Thu 4:45-7:30-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 2:40-6:30-10:20 Mon-Wed 1-5-9:20 Thu 1

Westhills 10
165 Stewart Green

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:40
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:40 Mon-Tue 6:10-9
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 5:35
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 8:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sun 9:50
Labor Day (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:45
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 5:40
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 8:10
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Rusalka (STC) Sat 10:55
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Sun 12:40 Mon-Thu 5:45
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:30-6:40 Mon-Thu 8:20
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
RoboCop (PG) Wed-Thu 6:10-9
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:10-7:25-10:20 Mon-Thu 6-8:30
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1-4:50-9:30 Sat 4:50-9:30 Sun 1-4:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 8
Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:35
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 1-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:10-4:05-7-10 Sun 1-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:05-7-10 Wed-Thu 4:05-7-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed-Thu 1
The Nut Job (G) Fri 1:05 Sat 12:40 Sun 1:05 Mon-Thu 2:30
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri 3:40-6:30 Sat 2:55-7:25 Sun 3:40-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:25
Ride Along (PG) Fri 12:30-3:05-7:05-9:35 Sat 11:30-2-7:05-9:40 Sun 12:30-3:05-7:05-9:35 Mon-Tue 1:30-4-7:05-9:40 Wed 1:15-4-7:05-9:40 Thu 1:15-4-7:05
RoboCop (PG) Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10-10:05
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri 12:35-3-7:30-10:05 Sat 12:10-2:50-6:30-9:05 Sun 12:35-3-7:30-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:15-3:45-6:30-9:05 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed-Thu 1:30
Vampire Academy (PG) Fri 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Sat 11:05-1-3:35-6:15-8:55 Sun 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 1-3:35-6:15-8:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 9:15 Sat 9:30 Sun 9:15 Mon-Thu 9

Looking Sharp, Molly Parker joins House of Cards

Power play. Actor binge-watched Season 1, read Hillary Clinton's autobiography to prep for congresswoman role

Molly Parker is joining the cast of House of Cards. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Canuck star Molly Parker says she relished the chance to dive into the dark intrigue of House of Cards, noting the new character she plays on the acclaimed Netflix drama offers a worthy match to the power-hungry Francis Underwood.

Parker plays a third-term congresswoman who figures prominently in Francis's latest quest for power at the White House.

That means lots of scenes for the B.C.-native opposite star Kevin Spacey, whose steely-eyed Francis remains ever-focused on cementing the vice presidential post, no matter the cost.

Parker appears early in the Season 2 premiere, establishing right away that her character Jacqueline Sharp cannot easily be manipulated.

"She's tough and she's smart and she's a soldier," says Parker, wary of revealing too much about the storyline.

"She's ambitious and she's also principled, as we find out as the season progresses."

The sophomore run launches Feb. 14 with virtually no time lost following the Season 1 finale. Francis and his equally ruthless wife Claire, played by Robin Wright, are out on the early morning run they began in the previous episode, clad head-to-toe in assassin black.

Sweetheart debut

Season 2 of House of Cards launches Feb. 14.

The moment they return home, Francis is confronted with news that requires decisive action and it's clear these new episodes are set on maintaining the sombre intensity that became a hallmark for Netflix's flagship show.

Parker says she was a fan before joining the project, even binge-watching the first 13 episodes "in about three days."

Since joining the cast, she's been especially impressed by Spacey, whose movie star pedigree helped establish House of Cards as a slick alternative to more conventional programming offered by network and cable television.

"He's such a powerful actor and he clearly loves this show and loves making it," says Parker, also known for roles on Deadwood, Dexter and The Firm.

"There's nothing better than working with somebody who's at the top of their game. It just makes me better."

Jackie is a Democratic congresswoman from California, as well as a battle-scarred veteran from Afghanistan and Iraq who earns praise from Francis for her "ruthless pragmatism."

Although Jackie is not drawn from anyone in particular, Parker says she felt compelled to research powerful women in order to better understand how gender politics work.

"I was just really interested in what it costs to be a woman in a room full of men and how do you hold your own?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Here's a good one: apparently that guy from The Office just published a book

Funny story. He may be out of the writer's room, but B.J. Novak still has a lot to say

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News

B.J. Novak's new book, One More Thing, was inspired by story ideas he held onto while writing for The Office for eight years. CONTRIBUTED

A lot of people probably know B.J. Novak best, as he puts it, as "that guy from The Office." And yeah, he was really funny as Ryan, the intern bro turned full-time employee. But Novak, who wrote for the longtime sitcom from day one, just penned his debut book: a collection of short, irreverent stories called One More Thing. We got Novak on the line to talk about more than just one of the things we were wondering about.

Coming from TV, what made you decide to write a book of short stories?
I had all these ideas that I was bursting with after all these years on The Office, that really didn't fit into this really contained environment that I was writing in for eight years. I would sort of accumulate them in notebooks. Any ideas that didn't fit into Dwight, Michael, Jim and Pam, or Ryan and Kelly, just went into a stack of notebooks that I would put away in a drawer and not know what to do with. So then when The Office was finally coming to an end, I looked through all the notebooks and I loved so many of these ideas but they didn't all seem to be right for a movie or a TV show, I didn't know what they were for.

So I just started writing them, and it became very exciting to write in all different lengths and all different tones, just whatever I thought an idea called for. And it became a book of fiction.

Did writing a book feel more personal than your previous projects?
It feels a lot more personal! And the irony is, I didn't think this was a personal book at all when I started it. Unlike my best friend Mindy (Kaling), who wrote a memoir, I'm not really a personal writer, I don't really have stories or opinions to share. I would bore people.

But before I knew it, I was putting so much more of myself into it. My own opinions and fears and neuroses and fantasies, they were all working their way into the stories. So it ended up being the most personal thing I've ever done.

Was it a little scary to read the early reviews?
As I was first writing the stories, I would read them out loud, first to friends, and then eventually to theatres of people. I would book the Upright Citizens Brigade theatres in L.A. and New York, and hundreds of people would show up, because they knew the guy from The Office. And I would read these stories in progress, so I really got to know what worked and what didn't, what held their attention, what people seemed to want more of and what they wanted less of. So by the time the book came out and reviews came out, I kind of knew, more or less, how things would play.

Was it sad when The Office finally ended, or was it more of a relief?
It was both. Every now and then I drive by the old set, or the highway exit I used to take, or see the old gang or catch an episode on TV, and it does make me wistful for the past a little bit. But in general it was very exciting and freeing to be out of it.

Quoted

"It's like if your high school or college photos were on TV every night at 7:30, you'd probably reminisce a lot too."

B.J. Novak, actor, writer and comedian, on looking back at The Office

You spent almost the first decade of your career on that show, and had so much success at a young age. Was it all kind of overwhelming?
Yeah, it kind of happened so fast that we didn't really have time to adjust to it. You know, we knew that what we were writing — I really related more as a writer during those years on The Office — was great. Well, we thought it was great. You always think that something you're doing is great, at first. And then, when people would come up to us on the street and say that they loved our show, it kind of felt very natural to us, because we had that cocky thing that kids have, where they think they're the best in the world. It took some hard knocks during the show to realize that this was hard work and that not every episode was going to make everybody laugh, and just because you're great one week, that doesn't make it any easier the next week.

There are some comedians who I feel, if I met them, we'd be friends. Are there any people in the business that you just know, if you could meet them, you'd be buds?
Oh, that's a great question! Let's see. David Letterman. Every time I'm on his show — I've been on his show twice — I know that I'm just a guest, and that everyone is just a guest to him, but I really think if he'd let just one more friend into his life, just one, we'd really get along. He just seems so wry and chill and smart.

I read somewhere that when you lived in Boston you pulled a big prank at the Museum of Fine Arts. Tell me about it?
There was an exhibit of ancient Chinese art, and this was back when they put audio cassettes in the headsets on tours, like actual tapes.

So my friend and I took the tour and we were like "Well, we could make a more interesting tour." So we borrowed one of the tapes and transcribed where everything on the tour was. And then we wrote a new tour. Then we got a friend with a deep accent to narrate the new tour. And for the first three minutes it was exactly the same.

So, we sent some people kind of slyly into the museum to switch out the tapes, and people got deep into the tour, but then, three minutes in, the narrator just goes off the rails. You know, insulting some of the paintings, insulting the museum-goers. So that was incredibly exciting for us, to know that these people were just being ambushed with extreme vulgarity in the middle of their museum tour.

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Celeb chow-palace elevator pitches

With a meaty spot après Duck Dynasty, A&E gave Wahlburgers a real chance to sizzle. The show centres around the famous family's burger joint run by Paul, the bro you don't know, but Hollywood heavyweight Mark and NKOTB alum Donnie show up to beef up the cast. With a bounty of entertainer eateries ripe for reality treatment, if Wahlburgers hits the ratings spot, expect networks to keep ordering up. Here are our ideas for some celeb-food-TV mash-ups.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Jon Bon Jovi

Jon Bon Jovi's Soul Kitchen is a converted auto shop in Red Bank, N.J., where patrons can pay-what-they-can, or volunteer to earn a meal voucher. This is big-hearted, pass-the-tissue-box reality TV waiting to happen.

The community restaurant where you are often seated with strangers could put visiting stars on a TV show version across the table from everyday people, with Undercover Boss-style life story spilling sessions. Watch for Jovi's pop, John Bongiovi, Sr. The 74-year-old silver fox has a trio of pasta sauces sold in stores in the Garden State and also available online for orders anywhere in North America. The series could be called Living on Puttanesca.

Vince Neil

The crowded intersection of music and meatballs is paved with scores of swank and sleazy show-ready bistros, hipster cafés and glorified dives.

At Tatuado EAT-DRINK-PARTY!, Motley Crüe front man Vince Neil's latest Vegas bar & grill, you can sip on a crowd-attracting bolstering concoction called Drunk Goggles, a quartet of flavored rums mixed with cranberry and pineapple juices.

It's the perfect elixir for Inked & Eligible, a speed-dating show we think would get people tuning in.

Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga's parents Joe and Cynthia serve up familiar Italian fare on Manhattan's upper west side. Entrees at Joanne Trattoria cover all the bases, from wood-stone oven pizzas and eggplant parmesan to pappardelle with pulled pork rib ragu.

While the menu is devoid of shock value, Gaga has vouched for its deliciousness, going so far as blaming the place for expanding her waistline. We imagine a show called Eat This Way, where two disparate constituencies such as hungry marathon runners and thin, aspiring plus-sized models commune at the Germanotta family establishment to carb-load before big races and casting calls.

Paulina Gretzky

In the world of sports dining, jock-sized portions of chops and juicy porterhouses are par for the course. Wayne Gretzky may have been the most elegant skater and mesmerizing stick-handler in hockey history, but in the celebrity eatery game his restaurant wouldn't crack the all-star team.

Instead, we think a show called The Paulina Project — where the selfie queen and her friends and hangers-on are tasked with giving her father's eponymous restaurant on 99 Blue Jays Way in Toronto a total makeover — would score big. The only thing off limits is Grandma Gretzky's delectable duck-fat fried cheddar and potato perogies. Those moon-shaped morsels are a hall of fame-worthy appetizer.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

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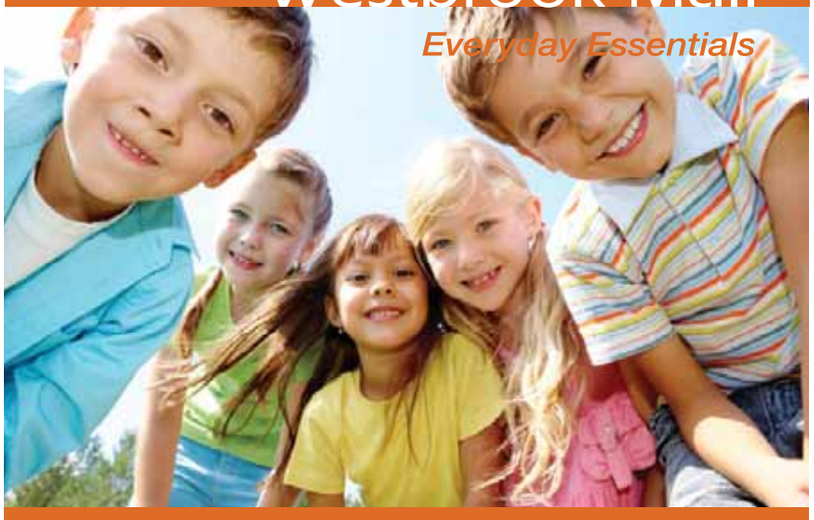

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Vino di Brangelina. Wine premieres to rave reviews as Jolie-Pitt 2013 rosé goes on sale

The latest Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie sequel is being described as powerful and elegant with a "mouth-watering finish."

These raves don't appear in movie publications — they're from Decanter magazine's review of the celebrity couple's second vintage of rosé wine produced at their French Provencal estate, Chateau Miraval.

The 2013 Miraval goes on sale online Friday and will be in shops and restaurants around the world next month.

The 2012 vintage, Pitt's and Jolie's first since buying the 1,200 acre estate, was the highest-ranked rosé on Wine Spectator's annual Top 100 wines list.

Decanter describes the Cotes de Provence rosé as "charmingly pretty in colour" with "a delicate structure that deepens through the palate." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miraval 2013 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Biggest Loser champion faces new set of challenges

Rachel Frederickson during her first episode on The Biggest Loser.
TRAE PATTON/NBC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How much is too much? Winner's weight loss garners criticisms and concern

A day after Rachel Frederickson won the latest season of The Biggest Loser, after shedding nearly 60 per cent of her body weight, attention wasn't focused on her $250,000 win but rather the criticism surrounding her loss.

Experts cautioned that regardless of her current weight, the criticism being levied on social media about her losing too much isn't helpful. A more constructive message is needed, they say, centring on overall healthy living and body image.

The five-foot-four, 24-year-old Frederickson dropped from 260 pounds to 105 under the show's rigorous exercise and diet regimen, and time spent on her own before the finale. She was a three-time state champion swimmer at Stillwater Area High School in Minnesota, then turned to sweets for solace after a failed romance with a foreign exchange student she followed to his native Germany.

Frederickson's newly thin frame lit up Twitter on Wednesday, with many viewers pointing to the surprised expressions on the faces of trainers Jillian Michaels and Bob Harper during the show's Tuesday night finale. Many tweeted that Frederickson looked anorexic and unhealthy, while others congratulated her for dropping 155 pounds.

Frederickson's body mass index, a measure of height and weight, is below the normal range, said Jillian Lampert, senior director of the Emily Program, an eating disorder treatment program based in St. Paul, Minn. But she said the criticism directed against Frederickson isn't helpful.

"As a society we often criticize people for being at higher weights. That's part of why we have the TV show The Biggest Loser. And then we feel free to criticize lower weight," Lampert said.

A more constructive message to send young people would centre on well-rounded health and the importance of eating well, moving well and sleeping well, she said.

"We certainly see a lot of people who struggle with eating disorders who use the same behaviours on that show to an extreme," she said. "That can't be helpful."

During an appearance on Access Hollywood, Frederickson didn't directly respond to the criticism but said she intends to live a healthy lifestyle going forward.

"My journey was about finding that confident girl again. Little by little, challenge by challenge, that athlete came out. And it sparked inside me this feeling that I can do anything I can conceive. And I found that girl, and I'm just going to embrace her fully," she said.

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Frederickson on the finale of The Biggest Loser in L.A. Tuesday. TRAE PATTON/NBC

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Video game review

Name. Tearaway

For. PlayStation Vita

Rated. Everyone

Tearaway is a world of construction sheets and paper curls, of aluminum foils and glues and scissors, where, because you can poke your fingers into it using touchscreens, you can fold and tear a path through its adventure. Draw a snowflake and it becomes the snow drifting on the wind. A picture taken with your camera becomes an elk's fur. There are monster fights and puzzles, yes, but as activities geared towards those who love arts and crafts. It's a strange, unpredictable, whimsical adventure that feels like a paper craft hobby. **KRIS ABEL**

Songs for the weekend

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Elbow followed by a double helping of fake NIN and the Chili Peppers

New York Morning/ Elbow

This gorgeously melancholy song is the first single from Elbow's sixth studio album, The Take Off and Landing of Everything, which is set for a March 11 release.

Abracabrafornia/ Jon Daly

This parody of the Red Hot Chili Peppers' style is so convincing that a lot of fans were fooled into thinking the band had actually released a new song. Even the website for the song looked like the real thing.

This a Trent Reznor Song/ Frederick Scott

The guy behind this take-off from Trent Reznor's songwriting style couldn't have nailed it better if he were an actual member of Nine Inch Nails.

Sprint Cup

The Duck Dynasty cast CONTRIBUTED

Duck Commander now sponsor of NASCAR race

The NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Texas is going to the ducks this spring.

Texas Motor Speedway has announced a three-year title sponsorship agreement for its spring race with Duck Commander, the brand of bestselling duck calls and Robertson family-owned company featured on the A&E show Duck Dynasty. The deal is for the spring race at the track. The April 6 race will be known as the Duck Commander 500. "We are all big fans of NASCAR and have been all our lives," said Willie Robertson, the CEO of Duck Commander.

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Pussy Riot. Recently-freed members and Madonna speak at Amnesty concert

Instead of singing, Madonna and members of Pussy Riot spoke with passion about human rights issues at a concert for Amnesty International.

Madonna told the crowd of thousands Wednesday night that she received death threats for standing up for Pussy Riot, a Russian protest punk band, when two of its members were arrested for hooliganism after staging a protest in a Russian church in 2012.

"The right to be free, to speak our minds, to have an opinion, to love who we want to love, to be who we are ... do we have to fight for that?" the pop icon said, answering her own question with an expletive.

At the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, Madonna introduced Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, who were released from prison in December and made their first public appearance in the U.S. on Tuesday.

They spoke through a translator at the Bringing Human Rights Home concert, telling the audience they were grateful to be free but have to continue to fight to save others who are imprisoned.

Maria Alyokhina, left, and Nadya Tolokonnikova speak at Amnesty International's Bringing Human Rights Home Concert Wednesday in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova thanked supporters for sending letters while they were in jail and Amnesty International for its mission to protect human rights.

The Moscow-based group, which features nearly a dozen female musicians, has been critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin and political conditions in their homeland.

While Madonna and Pussy Riot didn't perform, the Flaming Lips and Yoko Ono closed the more than four-hour event, while Imagine Dragons were crowd favourites with their hit Radioactive. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pussy Riot, or not?

Music website Pitchfork reported Thursday that members of Pussy Riot posted an open letter on their Livejournal, stating that Alyokhina and Tolokonnikova are no longer members of Pussy Riot, as their focus has primarily become prison reform and not the ideals of the group. METRO

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Sorkin delivers candid opinion on Hoffman death

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Philip Seymour Hoffman and writer Aaron Sorkin worked together only once, on Sorkin's film Charlie Wilson's War. But they had an important thing in common: They were both recovering addicts.

In the wake of Hoffman's death, the Newsroom creator is sharing some of his conversations with him. In an obituary for Time, he writes that Hoffman told him, "If one of us dies of an overdose, probably 10 people who were about to won't." In other words, Sorkin writes, the death of a famous addict might scare a few other people on the edge into getting clean, and that's why, he says, it's important to be clear that Hoffman didn't die because he did heroin wrong, but because he did it at all.

"(Hoffman) did not die from an overdose of heroin — he died from heroin. We should stop implying that if he'd just taken the proper amount then everything would have been fine.

"He didn't die because he was partying too hard or because he was depressed," he added, "He died because he was an addict.

Is Foxx in Cruise control mode by keeping Katie a secret?

Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes can't seem to dodge rumours that they're secretly an item.

According to Page Six, Foxx and Holmes have been seeing each other since last summer but are keeping the romance hush-hush out of respect for Holmes' ex-husband, Tom Cruise. "Jamie is being careful because he has a lot of respect for Tom," a source says. When rumours first circulated about the pair last August, Foxx vehemently denied them.

Jamie Foxx

Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Flight crew give their side of Bieber's high flying

More details are emerging about Justin Bieber's hot-boxed flight into the New York area for the Super Bowl last week. According to an official report obtained by NBC News, Bieber and his entourage smoked so much marijuana on the plane that the flight crew donned oxygen masks to avoid inhaling any.

"The captain of the flight stated that he warned the passengers, including Bieber, on several occasions to stop smoking marijuana," the report states. "The captain also stated he needed to request that the passengers stop their harassing behaviour toward the flight attendant and after several warnings asked the flight attendant to stay with him near the cockpit to avoid any further abuse. The flight attendant stated the passengers, including Bieber and his father Jeremy Bieber, were extremely abusive verbally."

The flight was met by authorities who searched the plane but found no unsmoked marijuana. No members of the flight crew filed charges against Bieber or his friends.

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PLEASE QUOTE: "ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE — Calgary" in the Subject Line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

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Liquid Assets

Pinot Gris vs. Pinot Grigio

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Here's a question I was asked this week: Why do some vineyards call their wines Pinot Gris while others use Pinot Grigio?

Well, the white grape is French so Pinot Gris is its original name. Italy grows a clone of Pinot Gris that they call Pinot Grigio, well, because they're Italian, which is lighter and crisper than the French versions.

Lots of other countries grow Pinot Gris and deciding how to spell it is a combo of flavour profile and marketing savvy. Some feel Gris sounds more sophisticated. Others produce a richer wine that they compare to a French Pinot Gris so go with that spelling.

Since the popularity of Pinot Grigio is undeniable (which translates to profitable) the majority of countries that grow Gris choose to use it.

South Africa's Two Oceans 2013 Pinot Grigio ($10.25 - $11.29) is a great example. Clean and relaxed, it pays enough homage to its Italian cousins to make it more than worthy of the name. Try with mussels, white fish, chicken, veg dishes and semi-soft cheeses. PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS COUNTRY. PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Skip tired steak rub and opt for Asian influence

Pan Seared Flank Steak and Daikon Slaw. Dress up the classic cut of meat

Start by marinating the flank steak in five-spice powder, rice vinegar and soy sauce.

Then while the steak is absorbing all those rich flavours, grate a daikon radish (they resemble giant white carrots, but have a mild peppery bite) and toss it with grated fresh ginger, scallions and red bell pepper for a simple slaw with just enough assertiveness to cut through the savory heft of the steak.

If you want to keep this dish lean, serve it over brown rice. But if you are willing to embrace carbs, try it on a bun.

1. In a large zip-close plastic bag, mix the black pepper, five-spice powder, red pepper flakes, 3 tablespoons of the vinegar and soy sauce. Add the flank steak, seal the bag, then turn to coat evenly. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 hours.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, stir together the daikon radish, red bell pepper, ginger, salt, the remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons of vinegar and the scallions. Set aside the slaw aside.

3. When you are ready to cook the steak, in a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the steak and sear it for about 4 minutes per side, or until desired doneness.

4. Allow the steak to rest on a cutting board for 8 minutes. Slice the steak thinly across the grain, then serve with the daikon slaw that you had previously set aside. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp five-spice powder
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 4 1/2 tbsp rice vinegar, divided
- 2 tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 lb flank steak
- 1 cup shredded daikon radish, patted dry with paper towels
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and sliced into thin matchsticks
- 1 1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger
- Pinch of salt
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp canola or vegetable oil

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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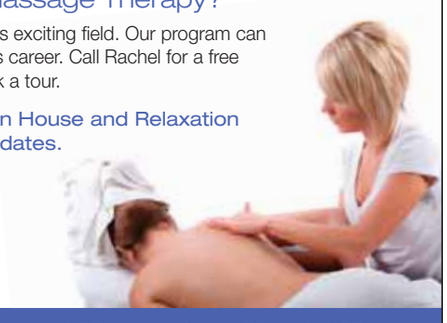

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Best of The 2013 Banff Mountain Film Festival

If you didn't get a chance to check out the 2013 Banff Mountain Film Festival, this is your last chance.

The "best of" screenings are taking place at the John Dutton Theatre inside the Calgary Public Library.

Each program includes eight of the top films from the festival. You can check it out Feb. 7th at 7:30 p.m., or Feb. 8th at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets range from $15 to $24 and they are available online: mountainfilm.ca/schedule/

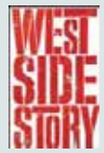
50 Shades of Red

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, this red wine tasting might be just what you need to pick out that perfect bottle for your romantic evening.

On Feb. 12 between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., Metrovino will be hosting this love affair-inspired red wine tasting.

Although you won't be sampling all 50 shades, they will have six varieties of red along with cheese, charcuterie and chocolate for your tasting pleasure.

Tickets are $60 and are available online: metrovino.com/event/50-shades-of-red/



Westside Story

Acclaimed as the greatest love story of all time, this Broadway sensation is playing daily from Feb. 11 to 16 at the Jubilee Auditorium, at 1415 14th Ave. N.W.

This new cast recently won the 2010 Grammy Award for the best musical show album, with top singles such as Tonight and I Feel Pretty.

This is one musical you do not want to miss!

Get your tickets online: calgary.broadway.com/shows/west-side-story-baa2/

Winterpalooza

It's been a long, cold winter, but that's no reason to stay inside. Winterpalooza begins Feb. 12 and runs till the 17th.

This winter's bike festival features informal events such as bike tobogganing and ice races to get the community engaged and out biking no matter the season. Don't miss the Winter Biking Photo Booth that will be set up on the south Bow River pathway Feb. 12th, or sign yourself up for the international winter bike to work day.

Visit the site for more details: cyclepalooza.ca/

Sweet chewy delights: candy making

Got a bit of a sweet tooth? Then this Cookbook Co. class is for you!

Jenni Neidhart will take you through the steps of making candy in your very own kitchen, and we're not just talking about chocolate.

For only $90 you'll get all the tools you need to kick that daily $2 convenience store candy bar habit.

This class runs Sunday, Feb. 9th from 1:30 p.m. to 4. Call 403-265-6066 ext. 1 to book yourself a spot.

The Birkenstock Ball

Kick off a year of celebrations for the Calgary Folk Festival's 35th anniversary.

The first annual Birkenstock Ball takes place Feb. 8th at 7 p.m. This event features live music by Compadres and Wil, and all proceeds support Folk U, The Calgary Folk Music Festival's youth programming.

A $75 ticket includes two complimentary cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and a $25 tax receipt. Tickets at www.calgaryfolkfest.com or at 403-233-0904.

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KIA The Power to Surprise

The Flames' Mikael Backlund and Kyle Okposo of the Islanders battle for the puck on Thursday night in Uniondale, N.Y. ADAM HUNGER/GETTY IMAGES

Bank open for Flames' game-winning deposit

NHL. Jones scores deciding goal to help Calgary take bite out of the Big Apple

David Jones scored the tie-breaking goal late in the third period and rookie Reto Berra made 28 saves as the Calgary Flames beat the New York Islanders 4-2 Thursday night.

Jones banked the puck off the Islanders goalie Evgeni Nabokov from a sharp angle at 14:28 to lift the Flames to their sixth victory in seven games and their first at Nassau Coliseum since 2004.

On Thursday

Flames	Islanders
4	2

Mikael Backlund added an empty-net goal for the Flames.

Sean Monahan and Dennis Wideman scored in the second period to put Calgary ahead 2-0. But the Islanders rallied to tie it on goals by defencemen Thomas Hickey and Calvin de Haan.

The Islanders went on the power-play with three minutes left when Jiri Hudler was called for hooking but couldn't muster much of an attack.

Monahan's team-leading 16th goal opening the scoring at 14:15 of the second when he wristed a loose puck from outside the crease over Nabokov's left shoulder. The 19-year-old rookie centre was the sixth-overall pick by the Flames in last June's draft.

Wideman made it 2-0 at 18:08 with a snapshot from the slot, his fourth of the season.

Hickey cut the deficit in half at 19:53 of the second, snapping the puck past Berra for his fourth of the season.

The Islanders tied it at 7:31 of the third when de Haan blasted a shot past Berra. John Tavares and Thomas Vanek had assists on the second goal of the season for the rookie defenceman.

It was the first point in five games for Tavares, who is second in league scoring with 23 goals and 42 assists, 12 points behind Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey

St. Louis subbing in for Stamkos

Martin St. Louis is going to get a chance to represent his country at the Winter Olympics after all.

Hockey Canada announced Thursday that the 38-year-old Tampa Bay forward will replace injured Lightning teammate Steven Stamkos on Canada's men's hockey team at the Sochi Olympics.

Martin St. Louis
GETTY IMAGES

"I heard from Stammer that he wasn't going to go, so I knew it was a possibility," St. Louis told reporters in Tampa on Thursday. "So I guess I was prepared for it."

St. Louis said he felt bad for Stamkos, who tried hard to come back from a broken right tibia he suffered in a Nov. 11 NHL game before being ruled out of Olympic competition by the Lightning's medical staff on Wednesday.

"Obviously he's disappointed and I'm disappointed for him," St. Louis said. "Stammer's a true professional and he's done everything he can this past month to get back to the Lightning first and hopefully to Team Canada."

St. Louis was considered one of Canada's most surprising snubs when Canada's team was first announced.

The Laval, Que., native led the league in points in the 2012-13 shortened season with 17 goals and 43 assists in 48 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada's Justine Dufour-Lapointe reacts after a qualifying run in the women's moguls at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Thursday in Sochi. Justine and her sisters Chloe and Maxime all qualified for Saturday's final. ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ski sisters clinch spots in finals

Women's moguls. Dufour-Lapointe sisters, Audrey Robichaud place in top 10 in qualifiers

The Dufour-Lapointe sisters all have a spot in the women's moguls finals at the Sochi Olympics.

Defending champion Hannah Kearney of the United States cruised through qualifying on Thursday, posting a score of 23.05, well clear of Montreal's Chloe Dufour-Lapointe (22.64) for the top spot.

Justine Dufour-Lapointe (22.28) took third and Maxime Dufour-Lapointe (20.88) finished eighth, assuring all three sisters a spot in the finals.

All three sisters declined to speak to the media after qualifying to concentrate on preparing for Saturday's final.

Quebec City's Audrey Robichaud also qualified, placing ninth with a score of 20.61.

It's a return to Olympic competition for Robichaud, who qualified for the 2006 Turin Olympics at age 17 before missing out on the 2010 Vancouver Games.

She nearly missed out on these Games due to a knee injury that sidelined her for part of the season.

"I really made a lot of progress, but the fact that I had not skied in competition last month worried me a little," Robichaud said. "It feels good to be back."

Kearney, the defending Olympic champion, posted the second-fastest time down the hill and highlighted it with a pair of well executed if not quite perfect jumps that allayed any concerns about the course's safety.

"I think that everywhere we go, every World Cup venue, we show up and say, 'Oh, my god. How are we going to make it down this course? This is impossible,"' Kearney said.

After some tweaking by officials, the slopes of the Caucasus Mountains looked no different than most other moguls events over the last four years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It feels good to be back."

Audrey Robichaud, who nearly missed out on the Sochi games due to a knee injury.

Did you know?

100+

Freestyle skiing dates back more than 100 years, with records of skiers performing somersaults on skis at the start of the 20th century in Norway, Italy and Austria. The first professional competitions were in 1971, and it entered the Olympic program in 1992.

Inter-Canadian duel

Defending moguls champion Alex Bilodeau's toughest competition could come from Canadian teammate Mikael Kingsbury, pictured.

Team figure skating. Pairs put Canada in second place

Patrick Chan did a mock baton pass to teammates Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford down in the warmup area of the Iceberg Skating Palace between events Thursday night.

Canada's pairs team took it and ran.

Duhamel and Radford had perhaps the skate of their careers Thursday to put Canada in second place of the inaugural team figure skating event at the Sochi Olympics, just two points behind Russia.

Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., were second in the pairs short program after three-time world champion Chan finished third in the men's short.

"I think that was the greatest feeling," said Duhamel, who clasped both hands over her mouth after the music stopped. "It's not the points, it's not the winning, it's not Canada winning a medal.

"To perform like that and finish our program with that feeling we had, it's every athlete's dream here in Sochi and at any Olympics, and we just did it, we just lived the ultimate moment of every athlete in the world."

Patrick Chan in Sochi on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

Russia leads with 19 points after Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov finished first in the pairs short and veteran Evgeni Plushenko was a surprising second in the men's event. China is third with 15 points.

The team event continues with the short dance, women's short program and pairs long program Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defending Mother Russia

Ovechkin to critics: Knock it off

The Russian Olympian and face of the Games told reporters at the Washington Capitals' morning skate Thursday that people were going out of their way to find faults with the host city.

"I've been in three Olympic games. And I remember Torino and Vancouver and nobody said about something bad in Vancouver or Torino," Alex Ovechkin said in Arlington, Va. "And why you guys always have something, try to find some bad things in Sochi ...

"Enjoy it and don't like find like bad stuff out there. Everything, like, in Torino we lived where construction was and nobody say about that."

Most of the problems documented in Sochi this week have had to do with hotels for visiting media members not being finished and problems like no hot water and light bulbs in rooms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHAT CANADA DID

THURSDAY
SNOWBOARD
Men's Slopestyle Qualification - Heat 1: y-Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., 3rd (87.25); x-Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., 9th (75.50); **Heat 2:** y-Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., 1st (97.50); x-Mark McMorris, Regina, 7th (89.25).
Ladies' Slopestyle Qualification - Heat 1: y-Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., 3rd (82.75); **Heat 2:** x-Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., 6th (60.25).
y- advances to final; x- advances to semifinal
FREESTYLE SKIING
Ladies' Moguls Qualification - y-Chloe Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 2nd (22.64); y-Justine Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 3rd (22.28); y-Maxime Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 8th (20.88); y-Audrey Robichaud, Quebec City, 9th (20.61).
y- advances to final
FIGURE SKATING
Team Men Short Program - Patrick Chan, Toronto, 3rd (89.71).
Team Pairs Short Program - Meagan Duhamel, Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford, Balmertown, Ont., 2nd (73.10)

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

FIGURE SKATING

At Sochi, Russia
Team Event
Men's Short Program
1. Yuzuru Hanyu, Japan, 97.98; 2. Evgeny Plushenko, Russia, 91.39; **3. Patrick Chan, Toronto, 89.71;** 4. Yan Han, China, 85.52; 5. Florent Amodio, France, 79.93. 6. Peter Liebers, Germany, 79.61; 7. Jeremy Abbott, United States, 65.65; 8. Yakov Godorozha, Ukraine, 60.51; 9. Matthew Parr, Britain, 57.40; 10. Paul Bonifacio Parkinson, Italy, 53.94.
Pairs Short Program
1. Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, Russia, 83.79; **2. Meagan Duhamel, Lively, Ont., and Eric Radford, Balmertown, Ont., 73.10;** 3. Peng Cheng and Zhang Hao, China, 71.01; 4. Stefania Berton and Ondrej Hotarek, Italy, 70.31; 5. Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir, United States, 64.25. 6. Maylin Wende and Daniel Wende, Germany, 60.82; 7. Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres, France, 57.45; 8. Narumi Takahashi and Ryuichi Kihara, Japan, 46.56; 9. Julia Lavrentieva and Yuri Rudyk, Ukraine, 46.34; 10. Stacey Kemp and David King, Britain, 44.70.

SNOWBOARD

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Top 3 results from each Heat
QUALIFYING
(Start position in parentheses)
Heat One — Run One
1. (12) Peetu Piiroinen, Finland, 90.75; 2. (10) Chas Guldemond, United States, 86.00; 3. (5) Niklas Mattsson, Sweden, 82.75.
ALSO
5. (7) Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., 74.25; 8. (3) Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., 54.50.
Run 2
1. (8) Staale Sandbech, Norway, (45.25; 94.50) 94.50; **2. (7) Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., (74.25; 87.25) 87.25**; 3. (14) Jamie Nicholls, Britain, (62.25; 86.75) 86.75.
Also
7. (3) Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., (54.50; 75.50) 75.50.
Heat 2 — Run 1
1. (6) Sven Thorgren, Sweden, 94.25; **2. (4) Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., 91.75;** 3. (10) Clemens Schattschneider, Austria, 90.00.
Also
12. (9) Mark McMorris, Regina, 29.50.
Run 2
1. (4) Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., (91.75; 97.50) 97.50; 2. (3) Roope Tonteri, Finland, (33.75; 95.75) 95.75; 3. (1) Gjermund Braaten, Norway, (12.75; 91.25) 91.25.
Also
5. (9) Mark McMorris, Regina, (29.50; 89.25) 89.25.
Final Ranking
1. Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que., (91.75; 97.50) 97.50 (QF); 1. Staale Sandbech, Norway, (45.25; 94.50) 94.50 (QF); 2. Roope Tonteri, Finland, (33.75; 95.75) 95.75 (QF); 2. Peetu Piiroinen, Finland, (90.75; 80.00) 90.75 (QF); 3. Sven Thorgren, Sweden, (94.25; 36.75) 94.25 (QF); **3. Sebastien Toutant, L'Assomption, Que., (74.25; 87.25) 87.25 (QF).**
Also
7. Mark McMorris, Regina, (29.50; 89.25) 89.25 (QS); 9. Charles Reid, Mont-Tremblant, Que., (54.50; 75.50) 75.50 (QS).

WOMEN'S SLOPESTYLE
Top 5 results from each Heat
QUALIFYING
(Start position in parentheses)
Heat One
Run One
1. (11) Torah Bright, Australia, 85.25; **2. (4) Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., 82.75;** 3. (5) Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, 82.50.
Run 2
1. (5) Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, (82.50; 87.50) 87.50; 2. (11) Torah Bright, Australia, (85.25; 80.00) 80.00; 3. (6) Christy Prior, New Zealand, (67.50; 70.50) 70.50
Also
4. (4) Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., (82.75; 65.00) 65.00; 5. (7) Aimee Fuller, Britain, (44.50; 39.00) 39.00.
Heat 2
Run 1
1. (6) Jamie Anderson, United States, 93.50; 2. (2) Anna Gasser, Austria, 89.50; 3. (8) Elena Koenz, Switzerland, 86.25.
Also
5. (4) Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., 60.25.
Run 2
1. (2) Anna Gasser, Austria, (89.50; 95.50) 95.50; 2. (10) Karly Shorr, United States, (45.00; 84.75) 84.75; 3. (11) Jessika Jenson, United States, (34.00; 58.50) 58.50.
Also
4. (4) Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., (60.25; 51.50) 51.50; 5. (3) Silje Norendal, Norway, (31.00; 39.00) 39.00.
Final Ranking
1. Anna Gasser, Austria, (89.50; 95.50) 95.50 (QF); 1. Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, (82.50; 87.50) 87.50 (QF); 2. Jamie Anderson, United States, (93.50) 93.50 (QF); 2. Torah Bright, Australia, (85.25; 80.00) 85.25 (QF); 3. Elena Koenz, Switzerland, (86.25; 38.00) 86.25 (QF); **3. Spencer O'Brien, Courtenay, B.C., (82.75; 65.00) 82.75 (QF).**
Also
6. Jenna Blasman, Kitchener, Ont., (60.25; 51.50) 60.25 (QS).

FREESTYLE SKIING

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
WOMEN'S MOGULS QUALIFYING
Run 1
1. Hannah Kearney, United States, 23.05 (Q); **2. Chloe Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 22.64 (Q); 3. Justine Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 22.28 (Q);** 4. Eliza Outtrim, United States, 21.51 (Q); 5. Perrine Laffont, France, 21.34 (Q).
Also
8. Maxime Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, 20.88 (Q); 9. Audrey Robichaud, Quebec City, 20.61 (Q).

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Focus on what you desire more than anything and there is a great chance you will get it. Your mind is a powerful tool. If you use it to make a request, the universe will respond.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you carry on with a difficult task or do you end it and focus on something a bit easier? Only you can decide but it does seem a bit of a waste to give up on it so soon.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The changes you make on the work front over the next few days will have huge effects over the coming months, so think carefully and, if there is any doubt, leave things as they are for the time being.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Whatever kind of news you receive over the next 24 hours, you are advised to keep an open mind. A couple of weeks from now, you will have more important issues to deal with. So, don't take what you hear now too seriously.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to make a decision about a partnership or relationship matter. If you don't, the issue will be taken out of your hands and other people will make the decision for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's important that you don't let anxieties get the better of you, especially where your health is concerned. You tend to fear the worst for no good reason at this time of year but eventually your fears will fade.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Put the finishing touches on something creative, something that could bring you the recognition you feel you deserve. Even if it doesn't make you rich and famous, it will still be a job well done.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you must get involved in a dispute between friends, make sure you are even-handed. If you give the impression that you favour one side more than the other, you will make things worse than if you had left it alone.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Change is good, change is positive, so whatever else you do today, don't fight the changes that come your way. You were designed by the cosmos try out new things.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you want something enough, you'll find a way to get it but it may cost you a great deal of time and energy. You have to decide whether the sacrifice is worth it.

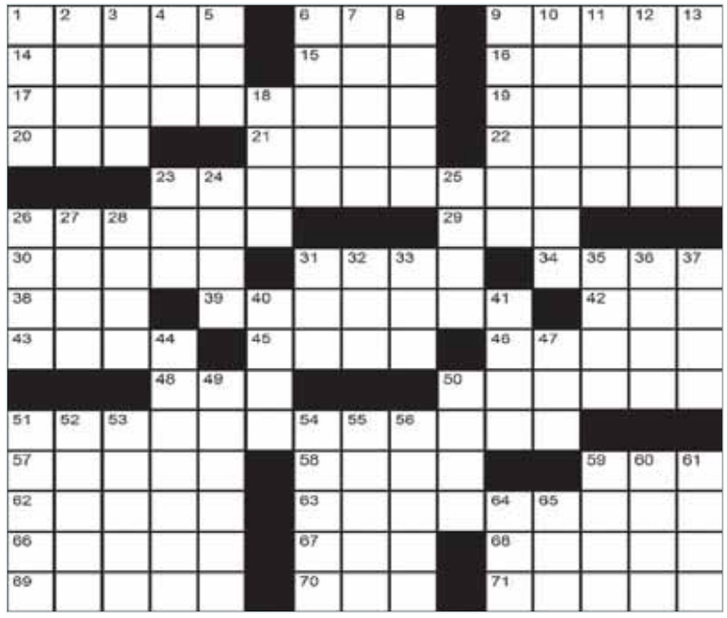
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have this feeling that if you don't act quickly, you'll miss out on something big. Maybe you're right, but is it reall important? The planets urge you to focus on what you've already begun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What society tells you is important and what your inner voice tells you is important are likely to be different. You should never go against your instincts. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



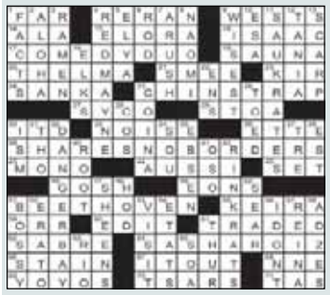
Across

1. Anton Chekhov play, Uncle __
6. The __-i-Noor Diamond
9. Sedimentary rock
14. 'E' of TSE
15. __ pro nobis (Pray for us, in Latin)
16. Carpentry joint, mortise and __
17. "Reach for the Sky (__ __ Mix)" by Maestro Fresh Wes feat. Classified & Blue Rodeo
19. Grain fungus
20. Consumed
21. "Soap" surname
22. Awaken
23. February 7th, 2014 - Winter Olympics: Canada's flag-bearer at the Opening Ceremony, Hayley __
26. Stick to
29. 'Opt' suffix
30. Radiancy
31. Feudal system land
34. Jennifer of "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)
38. Long period
39. 1957: Russian satellite, __ 1
42. __ lamp
43. Field
45. Nullify
46. __ __ spot on the team
48. Baking meas.
50. Cadbury treat, Crispy __
51. Russian pianist/composer, b.1873 - d.1943 [var. sp.]
57. Spry
58. Organic compound
59. Discuss
62. Library item
63. St. Petersburg, Russia: The State __ Museum
66. W. __ Wilson (Canadian entrepreneur)
67. Hi-__ graphics
68. Jean-__ (Montreal metro station)
69. "Rawhide" role Rowdy
70. City in Russia, Ulan-__
71. Thespian's home

Down

1. Singer/songwriter Suzanne
2. Quite often: 2 wds.
3. Egypt's river
4. Greeted, Rocky-style
5. Cash dispenser, commonly
6. Imaging company
7. Pontificate
8. Guitarist, Eddie Van __
9. "Connected" by __ MC's
10. Lorde album: 'Pure __'
11. Canadian pollster, Dr. __ Reid
12. On the lam
13. Insert
18. __ A Sketch (Retro toy)
23. Obi-__ Kenobi
24. Frosts
25. Sound system sort
26. On the briny
27. Thunder god
28. Prong
31. Playfulness
32. "__ be nice if..."
33. Lanois' U2 co-producer
35. Hey-you're-in-my-way device
36. "The Mod Squad" role, __ Hayes
37. "In the Valley of __" (2007)
40. Insect stage
41. Sawing cut
44. Olympics competitor
47. Montreal musician, Melissa __ der Maur
49. Extracts metal from ore
50. Musicals star Mr. Wilkinson
51. Darted past: 2 wds.
52. Ancient marketplace
53. Spotted cat-like mammal
54. Jacket type
55. Marvin Gaye/Tammi Terrell hit: "You're All _ __ to Get By"
56. Scandinavian
59. Bash
60. Worked up
61. Singer, __ _. King
64. Possessive pronoun
65. Ink-on-skin pic

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4		7		1		9	
7								6
		8		2		3		
	6	1		5		9	8	
	5			3			6	
	9	7		8		4	2	
		6		9		2		
1								9
	7		3		2		4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	1	2	8	3	4	5	9
9	3	8	6	5	4	7	1	2
5	2	4	1	7	9	3	6	8
4	1	3	9	6	2	8	7	5
7	6	9	8	4	5	1	2	3
2	8	5	3	1	7	6	9	4
3	4	2	7	9	6	5	8	1
1	5	6	4	2	8	9	3	7
8	9	7	5	3	1	2	4	6

Weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MAX: -12° MIN: -20°	MAX: -17° MIN: -19°	MAX: -16° MIN: -18°

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